inspiration for the hot anime!

samurai Harem

asu no yoichi

VOL 1

YU MINAMOTO

TOKYOPOP

VOL. 1
BY YU MINAMOTO

TOKYOPOP®

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Samurai Harem

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FIRST BLADE
IKARUGA DOJO
BRR! THAT'S COLD!
STILL, THERE'S NOTHING AS REFRESHING AS A MORNING BATH!
OH LOOK! AN ARROW LETTER!
IT MUST BE FROM UNCLE KARASUMA!

WHAT...?
To the Honorable Miss Ibuki Ikaruga,
For the sake of my unworthy son Yoichi's spiritual training, I will be sending him to the city. I humbly beg your indulgence in allowing him to reside at your glorious dojo for the duration of his training.
YOICHI-SAN IS COMING HERE...? TO OUR DOJO?
FIRST BLADE: ENTER THE SAMURAI!

ゴォ
ォォ

UKIHA KAMIKAZE STYLE..
...FIRST STRIKE!
HAYATE!/"GALE"!

HA HA! FOOLISH MOVE, YOICHI!
!!
THERE!
THESE SHALL DO QUITE NICELY FOR TONIGHT'S SUPPER.
...WHILE SQUATTING IN SO DEFENSELESS A STAN--!!
LET US SEE YOU DEFLECT THIS ATTACK...
YOUR GUARD IS FULL OF HOLES, FATHER.
WELL PLAYED.
!!!

YOU HAVE THRIVED IN A TRAINING REGIMEN MOST MEN WOULD WITHER UNDER. WELL DONE.
MY HUMBLE THANKS, FATHER.
SEVENTEEN LONG YEARS HAVE I RAISED YOU ON THIS MOUNTAIN.
YOICHI.
BUT WHY?!
I WISH TO BECOME STRONGER, FATHER!
WHAT?!
HOW-EVER...
...AS THINGS ARE NOW, YOU WILL NOT BECOME ANY STRONGER THAN YOU ALREADY ARE.

NOT KNOWLEDGE BUT EXPERIENCE MUST CRAFT YOU INTO A STRONGER WARRIOR!
SHOULD YOU JOURNEY TO THE CITY BELOW, YOU WOULD MEET FOLK OF MANY CREEDS AND DISCOVER THINGS YOU HAD NEVER IMAGINED.
YOICHI, YOU ARE NOT YET WISE IN THE WAYS OF THE WORLD.
HONE YOUR HEART AND SOUL AGAINST THE RAWNESS OF EXPERIENCE! ONLY THEN WILL YOU BECOME A TRUE BUSHI WARRIOR!
FOCUS NOT ON SIMPLY HONING YOUR BLADE!
JOURNEY FORTH, YOICHI!
YOU'LL DO WELL, YOICHI!
HA HA HA HA
THAT'S THE SPIRIT!
I, YOICHI KARASUMA, SWEAR TO DEVOTE MY UTMOST TO BECOMING A PROUD AND HONORABLE BUSHI!
YES, SIR!
SIR...

HA HA HA HA HA HA !!
I'LL NEVER TELL HIM...
...I'M SENDING HIM AWAY BECAUSE HE'S GOTTEN BETTER THAN ME!
THE IKARUGA FAMILY ALSO PRACTICES THE UKIHA KAMIKAZE STYLE AND THEIR DOJO IS IN THE CITY.
IF I ASK THEM FOR HELP, SURELY THEY WILL DO SOMETHING!
OOOH!!

SO THIS IS A "CITY"...!
IT COULD NOT BE MORE DIFFERENT FROM THE MOUNTAINS!
WHAT A GRAND, MAJESTIC SIGHT!
WHAT'S UP WITH THAT GUY?
PSST
DOES HE THINK HE'S A SAMURAI?
PSST
DID HE WANDER OFF A MOVIE SET OR SOMETHING?
BUT I MUSTN'T ALLOW MYSELF TO BECOME DISTRACTED BY SUCH THINGS.
NOW, THE IKARUGA DOJO IS SOMEWHERE--
!
BUMP
THE PEOPLE AROUND ME WIELD COLD, SHARP AURAS LIKE BLADES...
PERHAPS THEY ARE ALL STRONG WARRIORS! I CANNOT WAIT TO TRY MY HAND AGAINST ONE IN A DUEL!
WOODEN SWORD AND ALL
KIDS THESE DAYS...
SCARY!

OOH! ♡
LOOK, WA-SAN! DUDE THINKS HE'S A SAMURAI!
THAT'S SERI-OUSLY FUNNY!
YO, WATCH WHERE YOU'RE WALKIN'...
WÜSS.
.....

APOLO-GIZING TO WA-SAN HERE IS A SERIOUSLY GOOD IDEA.
HE CAN GET PRETTY SERIOUSLY SCARY WHEN HE'S MAD, Y'KNOW.
DUDE, SERIOUSLY! WHATTCHA THINKIN', WALKIN' AROUND DRESSED LIKE SOME DUMB SAMURAI?
The hell?!
.....
WHY THE SILENT TREAT-MENT, MAN?
YOU SCARED STIFF OR SOME-THIN'?
THAT TOY YOU'RE PACKIN' JUST FOR SHOW, THEN?!

Gulp!
WHEN WE BRUSHED SHOULDERS, THAT WAS NO ACCIDENT. YOU INTENDED IT.
FILTH!
...YOU KICKED A BUSHI'S SWORD, MORE PRECIOUS TO HIM THAN HIS OWN LIFE!
NOT ONLY THAT...
!!!
TO CLASH AGAINST ITS SHEATH IS A GRIEVOUS INSULT!
ACCORDINGLY, I DEMAND THE SATISFACTION OF A DUEL!

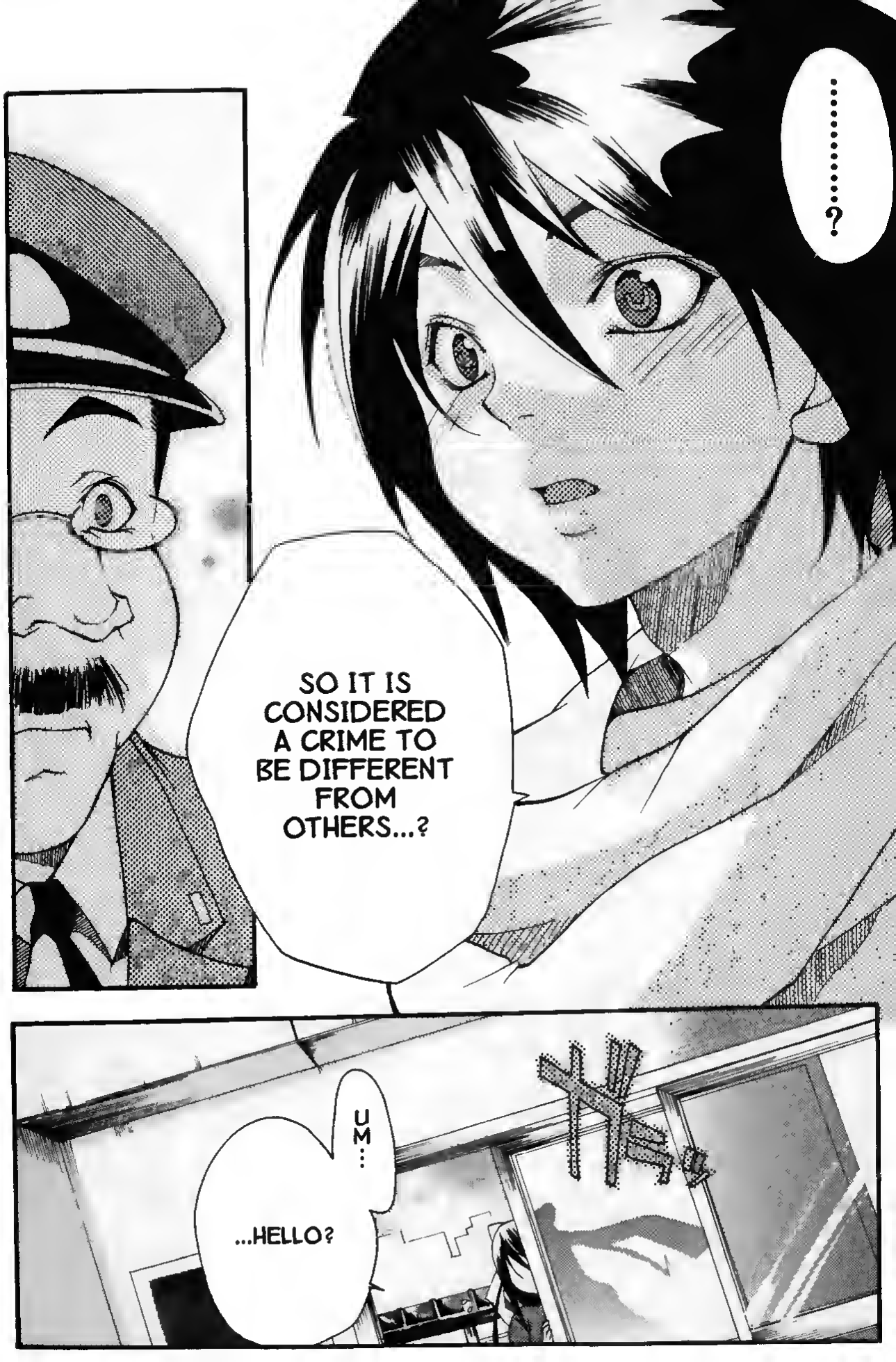
ナグ!!
ナグ!!
?!
DUDE, WHAT CENTURY YOU LIVING IN--?
HUH?
!!

WA-SAN!!!
NO WAY!!
What the?!

WHOA!
DID YOU SEE HOW FAR HE SENT THAT OTHER GUY FLYING?
THAT WAS INTENSE! WHO WAS THAT KID?
DAMN!
'SCUSE ME, SONNY. YOU CAN'T WAVE THAT THING AROUND OUT HERE.
.....
CHAK
HMPH!
EASILY DEFLATED AS THE HOT AIR THAT FILLED HIM. REGRET-TABLE.

HEY, ISN'T THE LOSER FROM YOKKO HIGH? WASHIZU?
DAMN
WHAT? NO WAY!
THAT WASHIZU'S BAD NEWS, I HEARD!
DOWN...
...IN ONE HIT!
SHH! DON'T LAUGH! IT'S RUDE.
EEK!
WAH!
DUDES, SERIOUSLY! THIS AIN'T A SHOW!
DRAWING THE BLADE AND AIMING FOR THE NECK...
THAT'S UKIHA KAMIKAZE STYLE'S SIXTH STRIKE, KOGARASHI. "WITHERING THE TREE."
UH-OH...
DON'T TELL ME THAT WAS YOICHI-SAN!

I AM A HUMBLE WARRIOR ON A JOURNEY TO LEARN THE WAYS OF THE WORLD AND STRENGTHEN MY HEART SO THAT I MAY CALL MYSELF A TRUE BUSHI!
I AM CALLED YOICHI KARASUMA!
THERE'S NO NEED TO WALK AROUND IN THAT GET-UP.
UMM, ARE YOU A FOREIGNER OR SOMETHING?
AH! MANY THANKS, GOOD SIR!
HERE, HAVE SOME TEA.
FOR A VIOLENT OFFENDER, YOU'RE RATHER POLITE.
NOBODY ELSE'S GOT ANYTHING LIKE THAT ON.
WHY NOT? TAKE A LOOK AROUND.
WHY-EVER NOT, SIR?
?


.....?
SO IT IS CONSIDERED A CRIME TO BE DIFFERENT FROM OTHERS...?
UM...
...HELLO?

あず...
EXCUSE ME.
IS THERE A YOUNG MAN DRESSED LIKE A SAMURAI IN HERE...?
あ、
OH!

HUH?
ERM, Y-YES...
I AM HE...
I KNEW IT!
UM, H-HELLO!
YOU WOULDN'T HAPPEN TO BE YOICHI KARASUMA, WOULD YOU?
カッ
しゃ!
MY NAME IS IBUKI.
IBUKI IKARUGA. I'M THE ASSISTANT INSTRUCTOR AT THE IKARUGA DOJO.
SO IT WAS YOU! YOUR SKILLS ARE IMPRESSIVE!
IT'D BE MY PLEASURE TO TAKE YOU THERE!

IT'S JUST I WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO MEETING YOU SO MUCH...
OH...
...I COULDN'T HELP MYSELF. PLEASE ACCEPT MY APOLOGY.
I GOT A LITTLE TOO FRIENDLY, DIDN'T I?
I'M SORRY!
WE'VE ONLY JUST MET...
.....
Oops!
SHE EVEN T-TOUCHED MY HAND...!!
...I HAVE EVER SPOKEN WITH A YOUNG WOMAN OF MY OWN AGE.
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME...

I MUST RECORD THESE FEELINGS IN A HAIKU, SO THAT I MAY RECALL THIS MOMENT THE REST OF MY LIFE!
IF YOU KNOW THIS BOY, COULD YOU PLEASE TAKE HIM OFF OUR HANDS?
BOING
AND SHE IS SO LOVELY, TOO...
HE SEEMS LIKE A GOOD KID.
WELL...
ARE YOU SURE THAT WAS THE RIGHT THING TO DO?
.....
MY GRATITUDE FOR THE TEA! IT WAS DELICIOUS!
THANK YOU FOR ALL OF YOUR HELP!
KOB

TH-THIS IS THE IKARUGA DOJO...?
SORRY, I KNOW IT'S NOT MUCH TO LOOK AT THESE DAYS...
IT MOST CERTAINLY IS! YOUR DOJO IS VERY REGAL!

...YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT EVER SINCE MY PARENTS LEFT TO TRAVEL OVERSEAS...
...THE ONLY PERSON CONTINUING TO TRAIN SERIOUSLY HERE IS ME.
YOICHI-SAN...
?!
TEE HEE...
SO YOU'RE NOT JUST STRONG, BUT REALLY NICE, TOO!
I HAVE NEVER BEEN THIS NERVOUS BEFORE...
WH-WHAT IS THIS FEELING?
BADUM
BADUM
ERM...
YOU DO ME TOO MUCH KIND-NESS...

I HOPE WE'LL HAVE A GREAT TIME TRAINING TOGETHER!
SO I'M REALLY, REALLY HAPPY THAT YOU'RE HERE!

Y-YES.
AS DO I...
TEE HEE! THAT MAKES ME HAPPY!
WHY DON'T YOU GO WAIT IN THE DOJO FOR A MINUTE?
I'LL BRING THE REST OF THE FAMILY TO MEET YOU.
……
タタタ…
IBUKI-DONO...
SHE'S SO FULL OF LIFE!
AND TO THINK SHE'S SO STRONG AND MATURE DESPITE THE ABSENCE OF PARENTS...
ドキ
ドキ
AND SHE TRULY IS VERY LOVELY.
ぽわわ

ぬぎっ…
THEN…
NO, NO. YOU FOUGHT QUITE WELL, IBUKI-DONO.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR ENLIGHTENING INSTRUCTION TODAY.
WAIT! THIS MEANS THAT IBUKI-DONO AND I SHALL BE SHARING A RESIDENCE...WITHOUT ANY CHAPERONES IN SIGHT!
PERHAPS…
...WE COULD BEGIN LESSONS IN NIGHTTIME SPARRING TECHNIQUES?
I HAVE LITTLE EXPERIENCE IN SUCH THINGS, BUT I PROMISE I SHALL GIVE IT MY ALL...
!!!

NO! I AM NAÏVE FOR ALLOWING MY HEART TO BE SWAYED BY IMMORAL ILLUSIONS!
THE BATTLE HAS BEGUN! I MUST DEFEAT MY BASER LUSTS AND PROVE MY WORTHINESS!
O-OH!
SIMPLY IMAGINING IT MAKES MY NOSE BLEED!
.....
...I NEED AN OUT-HOUSE.
And fast.
FEAR NOT, FATHER! ON MY HONOR, I SWEAR I WILL MAKE YOU PROUD!
I SHALL... I-I...
Oh, Yoichi! Aha ha ha!
COINCIDENCE
YOU ARE A WISE MASTER! YOU KNEW THE IKARUGA DOJO WOULD PROVIDE ME JUST THE TRAINING I NEEDED!
FATHER!
COULD YOU DIRECT ME TO YOUR--
PARDON ME, IBUKI-DONO?
I HAVE YET TO RELIEVE MYSELF SINCE LEAVING THE MOUNTAINS...
THAT MUST BE THE MAIN HOUSE OVER THERE...

YUM, I JUST LOVE A REFRESHING BATH!
ERM...

WAIT! WHY HAVE I PUT HER IN A WRISTLOCK?!
MMPH!
MMPH!
!!
YEE--
MMPH!
MMPH!
BEG PARDON, MISS. I MEAN YOU NO HARM.
MMPH!
COULD YOU KINDLY DIRECT ME TO YOUR OUT-HOUSE?
MMPH!
NOW, NOW. YOU MUSTN'T STRUGGLE SO.
SNAP
A THOUSAND PARDONS, MISS. I DID NOT SEE--
OOPS.
HOLD STILL, I SAY!
!!!
GRAB

URF!!
WELL, EXCUSE ME FOR BEING TOO FLAT FOR YOU TO NOTICE!!
...NPH!
GUYS!! A PERVVY THIEF GROPER BROKE INTO OUR HOUSE!!
HEY, NOW! MISS, COME BACK--
YEEP!
?!
PARDON ME, LITTLE ONE. ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
WAAH!!
My panties!

OOPS!
ANYWAYS, I WAS THINKING THIS PAGE IS PROBABLY BETTER OFF LEFT AS IS...
HELLO, SIR? SORRY 'BOUT THAT.
WOULDJA PIPE DOWN, PLEASE?
KAGOME!
WAAAAAH
YOU'RE DROWNING OUT MY PHONE CONFERENCE.
LOOK OUT!
GAH!!
OW...
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, MISS?
HMM?

!!!
HEY, UH, MISTER?
HUH?!
MIND TAKING A LOOK AT THAT PAGE? MY EDITOR'N I WERE JUST TALKING ABOUT IT.
WHAT DO YOU THINK? DOES THE PACING OF THE PANELS FEEL OFF TO YOU?
HMPH...
CINCH
YEEEEEEEAAA

BADUM
WHY DO MY SISTERS ALWAYS HAVE TO BE SO NOISY?
HMM...
BADUM
HE MIGHT THINK I'M NOT VERY FEMININE IN THIS...
WEARING A NICE, LIGHT DRESS MIGHT BE BETTER...
Eep!
NO! WHAT AM I THINKING?!
YOICHI-SAN IS HERE TO TRAIN! THAT'S IT!
IT'S RUDE FOR ME TO EVEN THINK OTHER-WISE!
GIRLS! THAT'S ENOUGH!
WE HAVE A--
HAAA
WAAA
OH. HEY, IBUKI.
SOME WEIRD GUY'S SHOWED UP AT OUR HOUSE.
Couldn't hold it any more.

THIS IS AYAME, THE SECOND OLDEST. SHE'S A 10TH GRADER.
AND THIS IS CHIHAYA. SHE'S A THIRD YEAR IN JUNIOR HIGH.
STUDENT/ MANGAKA. NICE TA MEET'CHA.
VOLUMES 1-3 ARE ON SALE AND FLYING OFF THE SHELVES.
STEP
AND THAT IS KAGOME, THE YOUNG-EST. SHE'S A FOURTH GRADER.
SO NOW YOU'VE MET MY THREE YOUNGER SISTERS.
A THOUSAND HUMBLE PARDONS.
I DON'T SEE YOICHI DOING SOME THING LIKE THAT...
COULD IT HAVE BEEN SOME WEIRD ACCIDENT?

BACK OFF, CREEP! DON'T YOU GET YOU'RE IN DEEP SHIT?!
OOH!
SO THIS IS ONE OF THOSE TELEPHONES SO SMALL YOU CAN CARRY IT IN YOUR HA--
A marvel!
AAME!
TALK TO PEOPLE'S FACES, NOT YOUR CELL PHONE!
IF WE'RE PUTTING THIS TO A VOTE, MINE'S "HELL NO!" I AIN'T PUTTING UP WITH SOME PERV LIVING UNDER OUR ROOF.
I DON'T PARTICULARLY MIND, REALLY.
BACK ME UP, GUYS. CHIHAYA.
WHAT?!
...YOICHI-SAN IS A PRETTY INTERESTING RESOURCE TO HAVE AROUND.
...FOR SOMEONE MAKING A LIVING OFF MAKING MANGA LIKE ME..
HUH?
I MEAN, HAVING A SWORDSMAN AROUND DOES MAKE THINGS SAFER.
URK! UH...
BESIDES...

WELL, SORRY FOR BEING FLAT!!
I HATE YOU!!
WHERE'D THAT COME FROM?!
BAD CHIHAYA! HAVE YOU NO SHAME?!
WHY HIT ME...?
A YOUNG MAN RAISED ALONE IN THE MOUNTAINS, LIVING FOR NOTHING BUT HIS SWORD AND HIS HONOR...
MY MUSE CAN DEFINITELY DO SOMETHING WITH THAT.
RUB RUB
Ch-chihaya-dono... your, erm, bust....
MY PANTIES...
They're all stretched...
WHAT DO YOU THINK, KAGOME?
HM?
YOU WOUND ME, LITTLE GIRL!
YOU CAN'T SERIOUSLY BE THINKING OF LETTING HIM STAY HERE!
I MEAN, WHOSE WORD DO WE HAVE? SOME OLD FART'S THAT WE'VE NEVER MET?!
THE IKARUGA AND KARASUMA FAMILIES COME FROM THE SAME ANCESTRAL LINEAGE! THEY'VE KNOWN EACH OTHER FOR AGES!
SO EVEN IF WE'VE NEVER ACTUALLY MET A KARASUMA, WE CAN STILL TRUST THEM!

AN ARROW LETTER IS AS GOOD AS A TEXT--
NOT EVEN!!
EVEN TODDLERS HAVE CELL PHONES THESE DAYS, FOR CHRISSAKES!
LIKE HELL! I'M NOT TRUSTING NO GEEZER WHO COMMUNI-CATES WITH PEOPLE BY TYING NOTES ONTO ARROWS!

YES, AGAIN.
MIND IF I NAP 'TIL THEY'RE DONE?
Pulled an all-nighter...
YAWN
WAH! THEY'RE FIGHT-ING...

HEY!
YOICHI-SAN...

THE TWO OF YOU SHARE ONE BLOOD, ONE FAMILY!
CAN THERE NOT BE PEACE BETWEEN YOU?

SILENCE! BOTH OF YOU!

YOICHI-SAN...
ERM...
...JUST WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE PUTTING THAT HAND?
WAIT! THIS IS ALL A MISTAKE!
OH, I'M SUUURE IT IS.
YOU CAN JUST SIT THERE AND MEDITATE ON, SAY, CURBING YOUR LIBIDO!!
HEAR ME OUT!!
Pbth!

SHEESH...
WHAT WAS I THINKING, RAISING MY EXPECTATIONS SO HIGH...?
HOW STUPID OF ME.

EVEN SWEET IBUKI-DONO TURNED ON ME WITH THE VIOLENCE OF A DEMON!
THE PLEASANT FACADES OF THOSE WRETCHES FOOL ME NO LONGER!
WHAT MANNER OF FAMILY IS THIS?!
GODS!
THE FAULT LIES IN THE PATHETIC WEAKNESS OF MY HEART.
NO. THAT IS UNJUST.
.....
...SO UTTERLY BEWITCHED BY A WOMAN'S CHARMS IS...IS...
TO BE SO EASILY...
Panties!

!
sniff sniff
CONCEN-TRATE! MY MIND AND BODY ARE ONE!
MY LIFE IS MY SWORD! MY SWORD IS MY LIFE!
NO! I WILL NOT BE ENSOR-CELLED BY THEIR WILES EVER AGAIN!
UNH.
SO THOSE WRETCHES HAVE PREPARED A MEAL FOR THEMSELVES TO ENJOY ALONE, EH?
THE SCENT OF SUPPER...!
I SHALL FORAGE FOR SOME EDIBLE PLANTS OR BERRIES...
ONE REAPS WHAT ONE HAS SOWN.
IT CANNOT BE HELPED.
A POX ON THOSE FOUL SISTERS!
HOW DARE THEY INSULT ME SO!
GURGLLE

BUT DON'T YOU WORRY 'BOUT A THING, WA-SAN. I'M SERIOUS.
IF YOU HADN'T BEEN GOIN' EASY ON HIM, HE WOULDN'T HAVE STOOD A CHANCE!
ズキ
ズキ
SERIOUSLY, MAN, WHO DID THAT FRICKIN' SAMURAI DUDE THINK HE WAS?
TALK ABOUT HANDING OUT SOME SERIOUS HUMILIA-TION.
HEY, IF YOU WANT, I COULD GET SOME OF MY PALS TOGETHER AND WE COULD GO GIVE THAT SAMURAI-FREAK A SERIOUS WORKING-OVER--
IF I HEAR "SERIOUS" OUT OF YOUR MOUTH ONE MORE TIME, YOU'RE GONNA BE THE ONE WORKED OVER!
Grr!
THAT BASTARD...
DUDE, SERIOUSLY! DON'T TAKE IT OUT ON ME.
UH... SORRY, MAN...
URK...
...HE STOPPED HIS SWORD! HE NEVER EVEN TOUCHED ME WITH IT!
A SPLIT SECOND BEFORE THAT STRIKE HIT...

IT WAS THE AIR PRESSURE ALONE THAT TOSSED ME LIKE SOME DAMN RAG DOLL!
DAMN HIM...!
ギリッ...
AND HE'S LOOKING WORSE FOR THE WEAR...
HUH?
IT'S HIM!

C'MERE, DUDE. I OWE YOU SOME PAYBACK.
HM?
DO I KNOW YOU, GOOD SIR?
.....
WA-SAN?
.....
TWITCH
AAH...
I AM AFRAID I MUST BEG YOUR LEAVE, SIR, AS I AM ON A DINNER QUEST...
HEY! WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING?!

HOW EASILY YOU FELL.
I ASSUMED YOU HAD SKILL, AS YOU CHALLENGED ME.
NOW I REMEMBER.
YOU ARE THE FILTH WHO DARED KICK MY SWORD EARLIER TODAY.
SHUT IT, ASSHAT!
WE FIGHT AGAIN! RIGHT HERE! RIGHT NOW!
.....
GYEEOW
CAN'T SAY I DIDN'T WARN YA...
Heh heh...
UH-OH, YOU MADE WA-SAN MAD.

CHICKEN...
SO, FILTH ...
I DO NOT BELIEVE I CAN USE MY FULL STRENGTH.
MY APOLOGIES. AT THE MOMENT, I AM NEARLY FAINT WITH HUNGER.
...BE THANKFUL! FORTUNE HAS FAVORED YOU THIS EVE!
MY HUNGER HAS WEAKENED ME ENOUGH THAT EVEN A THIRD-CLASS RUFFIAN SUCH AS YOU HAS HOPE OF DEFEATING ME!
LET US DUEL!
COME!
Y'KNOW WHAT, BASTARD ...?!

SCREW YOU!!
!!!
HEH HEH. WA-SAN USED TO TRAIN AS A BOXER. THAT STUPID SAMURAI DUDE IS TOAST!
NICE!
HAI
.....
WELL.

DWUH?
AND HERE I EXPECTED YOUR FIST TO REVEAL THE TWISTED HEART OF A LOW-LIFE RAPSCALLION ...
IF THAT BE THE CASE...
...BUT INSTEAD IT WAS A STRAIGHT-FORWARD, HONEST BLOW! YOU ARE A BETTER MAN THAN I HAD BELIEVED!
...THEN IT IS ONLY HONORABLE THAT I FACE HIM TRULY!

UKIHA KAMIKAZE STYLE, EIGHTH STRIKE...
...TSUMUJI! "WHIRLWIND"!!

I BELIEVE VICTORY IS MINE.
.....
!!
ZNG
ZNG
.....
WHAT THE HELL ...?
WHAT?!
WAIT A DAMN MINUTE, NOTHING'S BEEN--
?!
?!
WA-SAN!!

?
RYO ...
RYO WASHIZU.
I SEE!
WELL MET, WASHIZU-DONO!
WHAT BE YOUR NAME, SIR?
I AM CALLED YOICHI KARA-SUMA.
WHAT THE HELL...?
MY JOINTS ARE LIKE RUBBER?..!
YOU WILL REGAIN YOUR STRENGTH IN BUT A MOMENT.
BUT I DON'T HURT!
ヒュン ooo!
PLEASE ...
...ALLOW ME TO APOLOGIZE FOR MY RUDE BEHAVIOR EARLIER.
.....!
THAT WAS MY FIRST DUEL SINCE LEAVING THE MOUNTAINS.
AND A MOST ENTERTAINING BOUT IT WAS, SIR!
MY HUMBLE THANKS!

.....
Seriously! scary-kun...
DAAAMN!
YOUR PUNCH DIDN'T EVEN FAZE HIM!
I LOOK FORWARD TO WHEN NEXT WE DUEL!
Ha ha ha!
.....
"...IT WAS A STRAIGHT-FORWARD, HONEST BLOW!"
DAMN IT!
.....
WHO DOES HE THINK HE IS?!
OH!
WASHIZU-KUN.
GOOD EVENING!
TAT

WHAT'S WRONG? NEED A HAND?
!!!
OH! COME TO SCHOOL MORE, OKAY?
THERE! BYE, WASHIZU-KUN!
たたた…
ER...
I-IKARUGA-SAN...
UH...
BLUSH
HUH?
S-SHE TOUCHED MY HAND...
THAT CHICK'S IN YOUR CLASS, ISN'T SHE?
Dude, she's seriously hot!
HUH?
TELL ME SHE DIDN'T SEE THAT, MAN!!
HEY, TORIGAYA! SHE DIDN'T SEE ME GET BEAT JUST NOW, DID SHE?!
!!!
Hmm...
Dargh!
PROBABLY LOOKED WEIRD.
UM, DUNNO. BUT SHE DID CATCH YOU ON YOUR KNEES.

HE EMBARRASSED ME IN FRONT OF IKARUGA-SAN!!
GODDAMN SAMURAI!!
GODS ...
THAT BASTARD IS GOING DOWN NEXT TIME I SEE HIS UGLY MUG!!
IT WOULD BE BETTER TO COMMIT SEPPUKU...
...THAN ENDURE THIS HUMILIA-TION!
NOT LIKELY WITH A WOODEN BLADE.
WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT A CITY WOULD HAVE SUCH POOR FORAGING?
WHAT AN ASTOUND-INGLY POOR ASSUMP-TION.

IBUKI-DONO!
SHEESH!
WHAT IN THE WORLD ARE YOU DOING WANDERING AROUND OUT HERE?!
IF YOU'RE GOING OUT, SAY SO FIRST.
WE'RE GOING HOME!
NO! PLEASE! I BEG OF YOU! STARVING TO DEATH IS TOO SHAMEFUL--
THAT'S WHY WE'RE GOING HOME!
I PUT A LOT OF EFFORT INTO COOKING DINNER AND I DON'T WANT IT GETTING COLD!
YOU... PREPARED SUPPER FOR ME?
.....
OF COURSE!

SHE MUST HAVE BEEN FRANTICALLY SEARCHING...FOR ME.
SHE IS SHORT OF BREATH.
.....
?
IBUKI-DONO!
SO...
ERM...
I SWEAR ON MY HONOR THAT, HENCEFORTH, I SHALL TRAIN DAY AND NIGHT SO THAT I MAY BECOME A TRUE BUSHI AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!
I OFFER YOU MY SINCEREST APOLOGIES! MY NAÏVETE HAS CAUSED YOU TROUBLE!
!!!
YES.
I CERTAINLY EXPECT YOU TO BE TRAINING!

HOW CAN I TELL?
IS HE A GOOD GUY AFTER ALL?
OR JUST A PERV PUTTING ON AN ACT?
.....
CAN I TRUST HIM?
"I OFFER YOU MY SINCEREST APOLOGIES!"
BUT...
...HIS EYES WERE TRUTHFUL.

KAGOME'S PANTIES--ON HIS HEAD! HE GROPED ALL OF US!
DUMMY! CAN'T YOU TELL HE'S JUST A SKEEVE?!
IT COULD HAVE BEEN AN ACCIDENT!
HELL NO!! I DON'T THINK SO!!
I DON'T SEE A PROB-LEM.
HE'S FUNNY.
THEY CAN'T HEAR YOU.
I'VE NEVER EATEN A MEAL IN THE COMPANY OF SO MANY PEOPLE.
I DARE SAY IT MIGHTILY ENHANCES THE DINING EXPERIENCE!
もぐ
もぐ
SO?! I STILL DON'T--
DELICIOUS!

SIGH...
AYAME-DONO!
DO WHATEVER! I DON'T CARE ANYMORE!
THIS IS STUPID!
YOICHI-SAN.
...WE'RE HAPPY TO HAVE YOU AS OUR GUEST.
FOR THE TIME BEING...
Hmph!

WELCOME TO THE IKARUGA DOJO.
PLEASE MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME.
WHAT SHE SAID.
I AM MOST GRATEFUL FOR YOUR GENEROUS HOSPITALITY!
MY THANKS!

OH?
THIS? AH. I OCCA-SIONALLY DABBLE IN HAIKU, YOU SEE.
THIS ONE I COMPOSED FROM MY FEELINGS UPON MEETING IBUKI-DONO.
?
HEY, YOITSAN. WHATCHA GOT STICKIN' OUT OF YOUR SHIRT?
!
.....
What do you think?
I spoke to a girl
with two big, beautiful breasts.
It was wonderful.
-Yoichi
WHAM
WHATEVER FOR?! DID I DO SOMETHING WRONG?
YOU'RE STAYING BURIED THERE UNTIL I SAY OTHER-WISE!
JERK!
SEE? TOLD YA PERVERT TO THE CORE
.....
NOPE. NO SAVING THIS ONE.

SECOND BLADE:
WELCOME TO YOKKO HIGH

Okiha Kamikaze Martial Arts
IKARUGA DOJO
たぷん
I BETTER GET TO CLEANING THAT DOJO.
SHEESH, MORNINGS ARE ALWAYS SO BUSY!
FIRST MOM AND DAD TAKE OFF TO SOME FOREIGN COUNTRY...
MY SISTERS AVOID THE DOJO LIKE A PLAGUE...
THERE'S NO ONE LEFT BUT ME TO KEEP IT NICE AND TIDY!
!
?
THOOSH!

OH...
YOICHI-SAN...

TRAINING SO EARLY...?
ACK.
SIX O'CLOCK ALREADY?
!
IBUKI-DONO! A FAIR MORNING TO YOU!
AND A LOVELY MORNING IT IS, TOO!
OH MY GOD!
SOMEONE WHO'S AT THE DOJO EVEN EARLIER THAN I AM! I'M SO HAPPY!
GOOD MORNING...
YOICHI-SAN!
HAVE YOU COME TO CLEAN?
ALLOW ME TO ASSIST YOU.
WHAT?
NO, NO, YOU'RE A GUEST.
TUG
TUG
TUG
TUG
TUG
TUG
I MUST INSIST. FOR TRAINING.
STILL...
I'M GRATEFUL FOR THE OFFER, BUT THERE'S NO NEED.
OOPS!

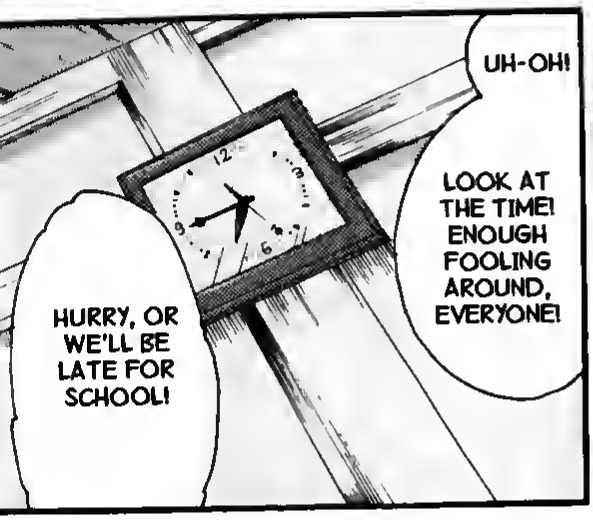
URK!
YEEK!!
IBUKI-DONO!
ARE YOU ALL--
ERM...
I... UM...
JERK!!
WHY IS

DAMMIT...
FLAT
I'M FLAT AS A PANCAKE...
WHY WON'T MY BOOBS GROW?
HOW COULD WE BE SO DIFFERENT?!
I MEAN, I SHARE GENES WITH HER!
F
COME BACK HERE, YOU LETCH!!
?
IT WAS AN ACCIDENT, I SAY! AN ACCIDENT!
JERK! I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU!!

GODS, WHAT A WOMAN!
SHE IS STUBBORN AS A MULE!
NOW WHAT ...?
WHAT'S THIS TINY LITTLE--
AH!!
AYAME-DONO!
WHY, YOU...
OF ALL THE THINGS YOU COULD HAVE SAID...
FIRST ME, NOW AYAME?!
Urk!
YOITSAN...
.....

BAH! THIS IS NOTHING.
YOU LOOK LIKE YOU GOT UP ON THE WRONG SIDE OF THE BED.
MY TRAINING IN THE MOUNTAINS WAS FAR MORE DIFFICULT.
WHAT?!
BE GRATEFUL WE'RE EVEN FEEDING YOU.
IF IT WAS UP TO ME, YOU'D BE HOMELESS, PERV.
N-NO! I'VE HAD MY FILL!
Eep!
OH? WOULD YOU LIKE ANOTHER HELPING, THEN?
WENCHI WERE THIS STILL A BUSHI'S WORLD, YOUR PUNISHMENT WOULD BE SWIFT AND SEVERE!
YOITSAN, DON'T LET IT GET TO YOU.
CHIHAYA-DONO...
GIVE THEM A CHANCE.
THEY'VE BOTH GOT HEARTS OF GOLD.

I TOLD YOU NO MANGA ART AT THE TABLE!
TONE GOT IN MY MISO SOUP...
Yeep! What a sly creep!


UH-OH!
LOOK AT THE TIME! ENOUGH FOOLING AROUND, EVERYONE!
HURRY, OR WE'LL BE LATE FOR SCHOOL!

THAT'S HARDLY HELPING!!
ONE JUST HAPPENS TO LOVE INFLICTING PAIN AND THE OTHER IS INCURABLY OBSESSED WITH HER DINKY BOOBS--
OOF!!

YOICHI-SAN, QUIT DRAGGING YOUR FEET!
SCHOOL IS SO LAME! I WISH I DIDN'T HAVE TO GO.
AW, MAN!
OOPSIES! WE'RE GONNA MISS CLASS!
WHAT?
STARTING TODAY, YOU'RE COMING TO SCHOOL WITH US!

SCHOOL! HOW SPLENDID!
I CAN HARDLY BEAR THE WAIT!
.....
BUT UNCLE KARASUMA ASKED, SO I COULDN'T SAY NO...
THIS COULD BE TROUBLE ...
STILL, IF HE STARTS ACTING WEIRD THERE...
YIIIIKES!
DID YOU HEAR? UKIHA KAMIKAZE IS A STYLE FOR WEIRDOS AND PERVERTS...
IT'S GROSS.
DISGRACEFUL!
THEY SHOULD CLOSE THE DOJO!!

AYAME-DONO.
IBUKI-DONO.
SHOULD I LET HIM COME?
I HAVE SPENT THE ENTIRETY OF MY LIFE SEQUESTERED IN THE MOUNTAINS WITH MY FATHER.
ATTENDING SCHOOL HAS ALWAYS BEEN A DREAM OF MINE.
……!
FOR MY DREAM TO COME TRUE... I'M SPEECHLESS!
YOU BOTH HAVE MY ETERNAL GRATITUDE!

WHAT?!
HMPH!
CAN THE ACT, CREEP. YOU'RE OBVIOUSLY HERE TO SCOPE THE LADIES.
THAT WASP!
DON'T EVEN THINK OF TRYING TO TALK TO ME!
AT SCHOOL, WE'RE OFFICIALLY STRANGERS, GOT THAT?
A LONG TIME, THAT'S FOR SURE.
HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN SINCE SOMEONE'S THANKED ME...AND MEANT IT?
...MAYBE HE'S NOT SUCH A BAD GUY AFTER ALL.
YOU KNOW...
YEAH.

YOKKO PRIVATE HIGH SCHOOL
UH-OH!
ACK!

IT'S WASHIZU!
SCARY...
FEH!
URK!
DIDJA HEAR? HE GOT HIS ASS HANDED TO HIM YESTERDAY.
WITH ONE HIT!
NO WAY!
SO HE'S ALL BARK AND NO BITE, HUH?
NOT A SINGLE SPINE IN THE LOT OF YOU, I BET.
psst
C'MON, WEENIES. TAKE ME ON IF YOU REALLY THINK I'M EASY PICKINGS.
psst
psst
...BUT, DAMN-- HE'S GOOD, AND IT'S BEEN A WHILE.
GOD KNOWS HOW MUCH THAT GUY PISSES ME OFF...
"LET US DUEL!"

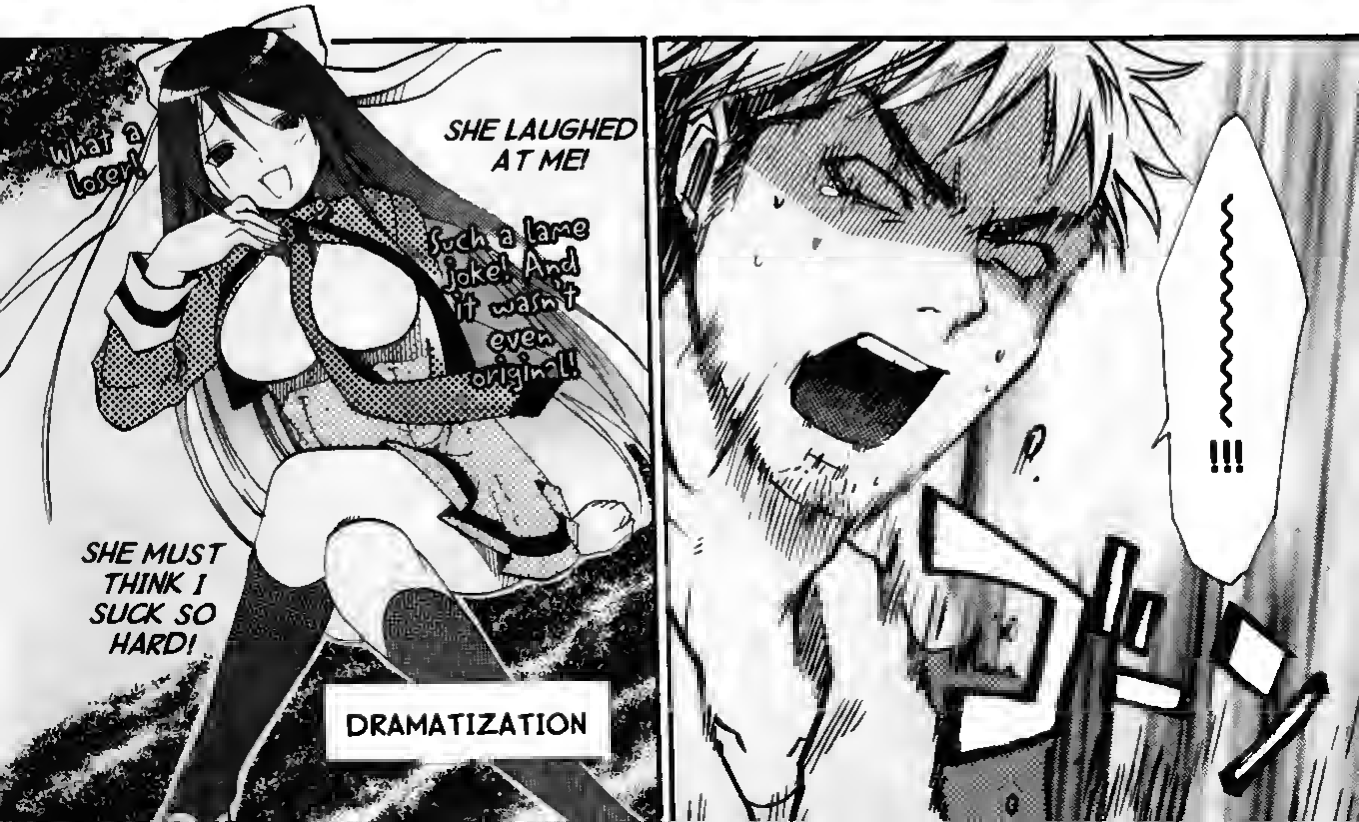
WELL, DUH! ONLY THE MOST BEAUTIFUL WOMAN IN THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE ASKED ME TO!
PLEASE COME! ♡
YEAH... OF COURSE.
DRAMATIZATION
HEY, TORI-GAYA.
HOW'S IT HANGIN', WA-SAN?
YOU SERIOUSLY COMING TO SCHOOL TODAY? FOR REAL?
HEY, WA-SAN. ISN'T THAT THE CHICK FROM YESTERDAY?
Ikaruga, I think?
HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO FACE HER?!
D'oh!
AND THE SAME WOMAN ALSO SAW ME HUMBLED YESTERDAY!
HM?
UH, IKARUGA ...
...SAN ...?
LISTEN, I KNOW I'VE ALREADY SAID THIS...
...BUT PLEASE BEHAVE YOURSELF. DON'T DO ANYTHING THAT COULD PUT OUR STYLE IN A BAD LIGHT.
DUDE, I'M NOT FIT TO SEE HER! NOT LIKE I AM NOW!
WHUH?! WHAT'RE YOU DOING?
You're in the same class. She's gonna see you.

?!
THERE IS NO CAUSE FOR CONCERN!
I SWEAR ON MY HONOR THAT I SHALL COMPORT MYSELF IN A MANNER BEFITTING A UKIHA KAMIKAZE SWORDSMAN!
IT'S THAT SAMURAI DUDE FROM YESTERDAY!
NO... NO WAY!
WH--
WH--
WH--
WH--
Will it now?
All shall be well!
2-B
ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE OUR NEW...
OKAY, CLASS.
WHAT THE HELL?!

GREETINGS, HONORABLE LORDS AND LADIES!
I AM YOICHI KARASUMA!
...TRANS-FER STUDE--
WHERE'S HE FROM ...
...THE 16TH CEN-TURY?
HE'S GOT A WOODEN SWORD!
.....
IS HE SOME HISTORY GEEK?
PLEASE NO CRAZY STUFF, PLEASE NO CRAZY STUFF...

YES, SIR!
YOU KNOW IKARUGA-SAN, CORRECT?
I SEE...
I HAVE THE HONOR OF LODGING AT HER RESIDENCE.
.....?!
OH!
WHY, IF IT ISN'T WASHIZU-DONO! WHAT A SPLENDID COINCI-DENCE!
ASSHOLE!
HE AND IKARUGA-SAN ARE LIVING TOGETHER?! THAT BASTARD--!!
DID HE JUST SAY WHAT I THINK HE...

* HARD GAY - A CRAZY COMEDIAN WHO WEARS LEATHER AND SHOUTS INAPPROPRIATE THINGS.



BONG
BING
WOMEN
HE'S GOING TO PAY!!
?
THAT STUPID SAMURAI! THAT'S TWICE NOW HE'S MADE ME LOOK BAD IN FRONT OF HER!
!
IBUKI!
STOP! IT'S NOT LIKE THAT AT ALL!
OH MY GOSH, IS IT AN ARRANGED MARRIAGE?
YOU OLD TIME MARTIAL ARTS FAMILIES SURE DO STICK TO TRADITION!
WE'RE NOT LIVING TOGETHER! HE'S JUST BORROWING A ROOM! BORROWING!
SAME DIFFER-ENCE!
SO HE'S YOUR WHAT? BOYFRIEND?
WHAT'S THIS ABOUT THE SAMURAI KID LIVING WITH YOU?
WHA?!
EVERYBODY WANTS THIS TO BE JUICIER THAN IT IS...
MAN!

I, ER, HAVE BEEN TRAINING. IN THE MOUNTAINS.
YOU'RE KIDDING! SO THIS IS THE FIRST TIME YOU'VE EVER BEEN TO SCHOOL?
Squee!
AWW, WE'RE MAKING HIM ALL NERVOUS. THAT'S SO ADORABLE! ♡
Y-YES.
O-OH...
I mean, he's carrying a sword!
YEAH! I SO THOUGHT HE WAS GOING TO BE SOME WHACK JOB...
NO MAN'S AURA HAS EVER OVER-POWERED MINE.
...BUT, LIKE, HE'S TOTALLY NOT! HE'S A CUTIE!
RIGHT, KARASUMA-KUN?
.....
I CANNOT PLACE MY FINGER ON EXACTLY WHY...
...BUT IT IS HIGHLY DISCONCERTING...
Ah!
YOICHI-SAN!
B-BUT THE AURA OF A WOMAN, I AM COMING TO SEE, IS ANOTHER STORY.

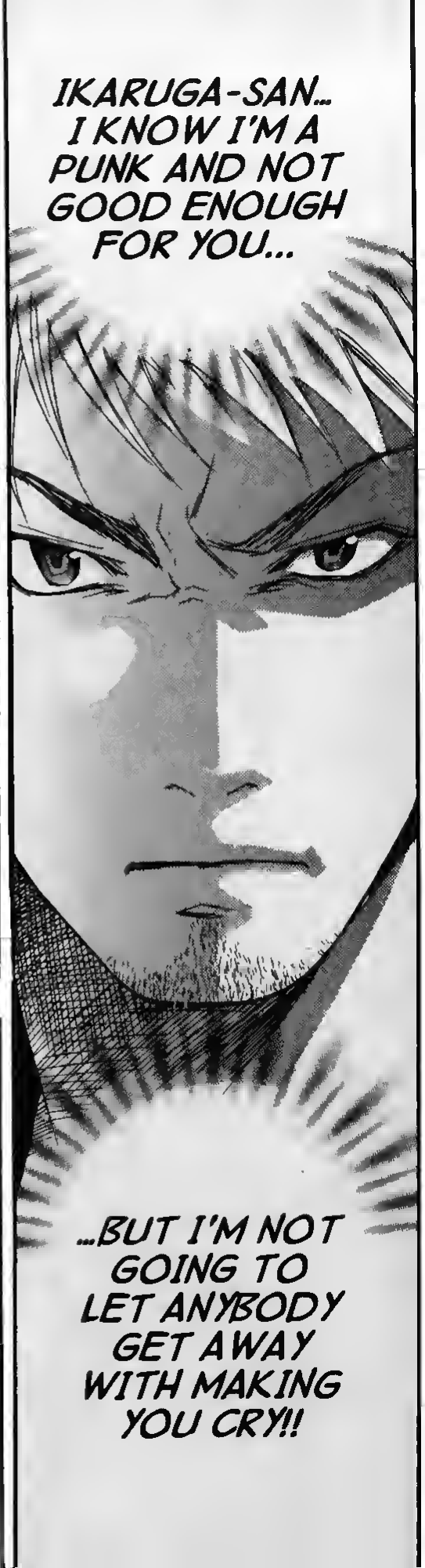
W-WAIT!
IBUKI-DONO! I HAVE NOT DONE ANYTHING YET!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN "YET"?!
THIS AURA OF HERS, HOWEVER, IS A DIFFERENT BEAST ENTIRELY.
CAN I TALK TO YOU FOR A MOMENT?
OUTSIDE
We were only talking to him...
SHE'S TOTALLY JEALOUS!
HE'S GOT TO BE HER FIANCÉ.
NO FAIR... IKARUGA-SAN HAS A FIANCÉ...
IT'S NOT YOU.
IS IT JUST ME, OR ARE THE GUYS IN OUR CLASS TOTALLY BUMMED TODAY?

HAVE YOU NO SHAME?!
IS JUST BEING AROUND GIRLS REALLY THAT DIFFICULT FOR YOU?!
AND THIS RIGHT AFTER YOU PROMISED NOT TO DO ANYTHING WEIRD!
AND AS YOU SEE, I HAVE NOT!
THEN WHY IS YOUR NOSE BLEEDING?!
You were blushing like an idiot, too!
BECAUSE YOU HIT ME! WITH MY OWN SWORD, EVEN!
STUPID SAMURAI...!
Grrr
Grrr
JERK! THAT'S JUST AN EXCUSE!
!
Oooh!
THAT'S IKARUGA-SAN'S VOICE..!
NOW LISTEN.
?!
I DON'T EVER WANT TO SEE YOU MAKING DOPEY FACES AT GIRLS EVER AGAIN!

WHY, THAT--!!
What we had was nothing to you, wasn't it?
And you just realized that now?
HE'S BEEN CHECKING OUT GIRLS OTHER THAN IKARUGA-SAN?!
DRAMATIZATION
WHAT?!
YO, SAMURAI!
WASHIZU-DONO.

YOU AND ME, DUDE.
WE'VE STILL GOT A SCORE TO SETTLE.

AFTER SCHOOL.
IN THE LOT BEHIND THE CLASSROOM WING.
.....!

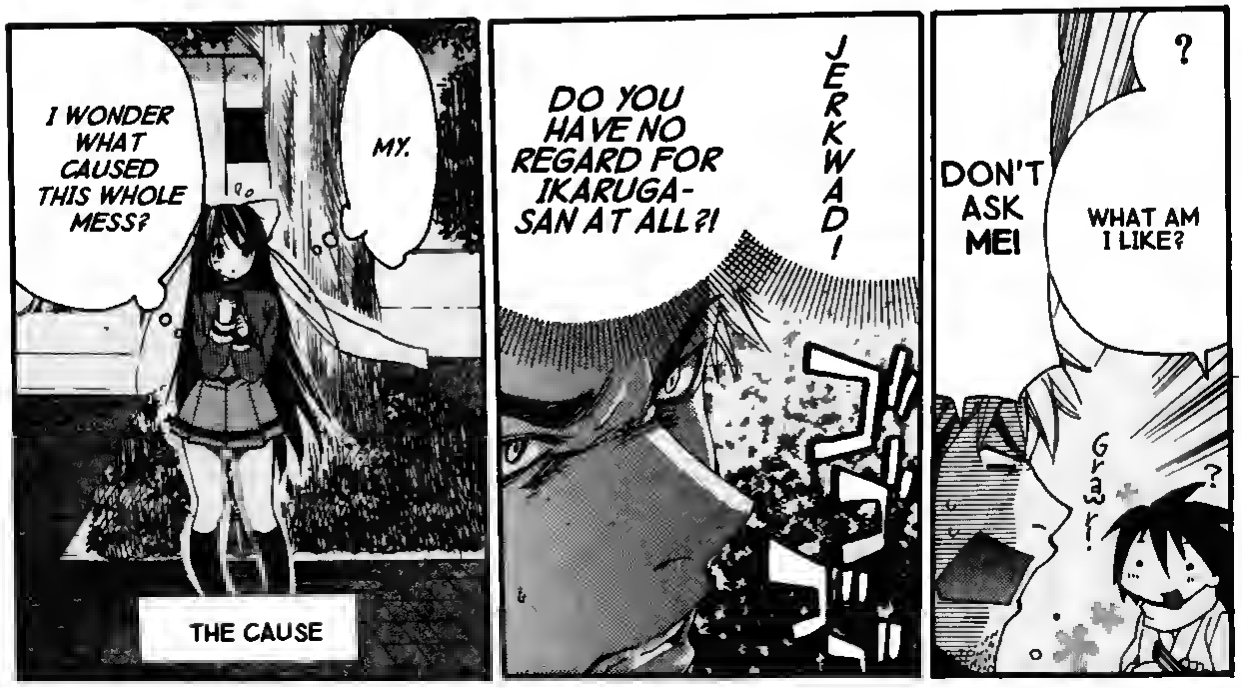

IKARUGA-SAN... I KNOW I'M A PUNK AND NOT GOOD ENOUGH FOR YOU...
...BUT I'M NOT GOING TO LET ANYBODY GET AWAY WITH MAKING YOU CRY!!

DO YOU SPEAK OF A DUEL?!
WHAT?
AFTER CLASSES HAVE FINISHED, CORRECT?
I CANNOT WAIT! I SHALL MOST ASSUREDLY BE THERE!
AH, WHAT A WONDERFUL DAY!
FOR I SHALL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO SPAR WITH WASHIZU-DONO ONCE AGAIN!
JUST YOU WAIT, YOU DAMN SAMURAI FREAK. YOU'RE GOING DOWN!
HMPH!
YOU KNOW HIM?
YES! HE IS A MAN OF SOME MERIT!

HEY, DID YOU HEAR?
WASHIZU-SENPAI'S GETTING IN A FIGHT. SEEMS LIKE IT'S BEEN AGES!
FOR REAL? WHO'S IT WITH?
IT'S IN THE BACK LOT, SO WE CAN WATCH FROM HERE!
WHO TOOK UP WASHIZU-SENPAI'S CHAL-LENGE?
WHO-EVER THEY ARE, THEY'VE GOT GUTS!
SENPAI WOULDN'T CHALLENGE THEM IF THEY WEREN'T GOOD.
HMPH...
HEY, AYAME! COME WATCH THE FIGHT WITH US!
HUH?
NAH, NOT INTER-ESTED.
LAME!
YOU SURE? THE GUY SENPAI'S FIGHTING IS, LIKE, SUPPOSED TO BE REAL WEIRD!
HE'S THE ONE WHO JUST TRANS-FERRED IN TODAY...
THE ONE WALKING AROUND LIKE A SAMURAI!

DON'T TELL ME IT'S--NO!
WHAT?!
HE HASN'T EVEN BEEN HERE ONE DAY YET! WHAT THE HELL DOES HE THINK HE'S DOING?!

HMPH! PLAYING THE SAMURAI SCHTICK TO THE HILT, HUH?
GOD KNOWS WHAT YOU'RE REALLY LIKE WHEN NOBODY'S LOOKING.
IT IS A PLEASURE TO DUEL WITH YOU AGAIN, WASHIZU-DONO!


I WONDER WHAT CAUSED THIS WHOLE MESS?
MY.
THE CAUSE
DO YOU HAVE NO REGARD FOR IKARUGA-SAN AT ALL?!
JERKWAD!
DON'T ASK ME!
WHAT AM I LIKE?
?
Grrr!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
?!
Heh.
...OUR MATCH SHALL BE MORE EQUAL!
THIS WAY...
HE'S GIVING HIMSELF A HANDICAP? WITH IKARUGA-SAN HERSELF ON THE LINE?!

NO WAY IN HELL I'M EVER LETTING AN ASS LIKE HIM HAVE IKARUGA-SAN!!
THAT CONDESCENDING BASTARD!
TODAY, WE DUEL IN EARNEST!
YOUR COUNTENANCE SHOWS ADMIRABLE DETERMINATION!
EXCELLENT, WASHIZU-DONO!
GRAB
!
!

.....!
YESTERDAY WAS NOTHING IN COMPARISON TO THIS!
SUCH A POWERFUL PUNCH!
ぎゅ
HOW DO YOU LIKE THIS, SAMURAI FREAK?
SEE HOW DETERMINED I AM?

NO WAY I'M LOSING THIS FIGHT!
NOT TO SOME LOWLIFE WHO PLAYS WITH WOMEN'S HEARTS!
HEH! SHAKIN' IN YOUR BOOTS, I SEE.
JUST GOES TO SHOW WHAT A POSER YOU ARE!
TAKE THIS!!
A KNIFE?!
……!
!!

HUH...?
...WITH HIS BARE HANDS?!
HE BUSTED MY KNIFE...
IF THAT IS YOUR DETERMINATION...
TINK
...I AM SORELY DISAPPOINTED
...
WASHIZU-DONO
?!

IS YOUR WILL TRULY SO WEAK...
...THAT YOU CANNOT EXPRESS IT WITHOUT RELYING UPON PETTY TRINKETS?!
.....!!
HE'S NOT SCARED, HE'S--
FOOL, WASHIZU-DONO! CAN YOU NOT HEAR?

YOUR FISTS...
THEY CRY OUT IN SHAME!!

……!
……
YOUR FIRST BLOW WAS FAR BETTER.
IT HAD PURPOSE BEHIND IT, A CONVICTION IT WANTED TO MAKE KNOWN.
SHOW ME THAT CONVIC-TION!
BUT WITH YOUR FISTS! DO NOT LEAN ON THE CRUTCH OF A BLADE!

WHOA...
IN-CRED-IBLE.
HNPH!
THAT SAMURAI GUY IS AWESOME!
HE BEAT WASHIZU!
HOLY CRAP.
I GUESS...
...HE'S NOT JUST SOME DUMB PERV.

I KNEW IT.
HE REALLY IS...
...A TRUE BUSHI!
GOODBYE, MY FIRST LOVE! I'LL NEVER FORGET YOU!
IT'S OVER. DONE.
...I'VE NEVER...
...LOOKED MORE LIKE A LOSER THAN AT THIS VERY MOMENT.
.....
Y'KNOW...

WHAT DO YOU WANT NOW?!
WASHIZU-DONO.
YOUR CONVICTIONS ARE STRONG, AND I ENJOY TESTING MYSELF AGAINST THEM.
WE SHOULD DUEL MORE OFTEN!
I DON'T WANT TO SEE YOU USING A KNIFE, EITHER. IT'S JUST NOT RIGHT.
I AGREE WITH HIM.
HERE, YOU CAN BORROW MY HAND-KERCHIEF.
.....
WASHIZU-KUN.

BAGUM
.....!
IKARUGA-SAN... YOU'D EXTEND YOUR KINDNESS TO EVEN A LOWLY PUNK LIKE ME?
YOU'RE THE KINDEST WOMAN I'VE EVER MET...!
...IT'S JUST WRONG!
FOR A GODDESS LIKE YOU TO BE STRUNG ALONG BY SUCH EVIL...
such evil
THAT'S GOTTA CHANGE.
KAW
KAW
AND I'M GOING TO BE THE ONE TO DO IT.

OWCH! OW OW OW!!

YOUR FIRST DAY AT SCHOOL AND YOU'RE ALREADY CAUSING ME GRIEF!
~SIGHHH~
MORE hurt?
Why do I feel...

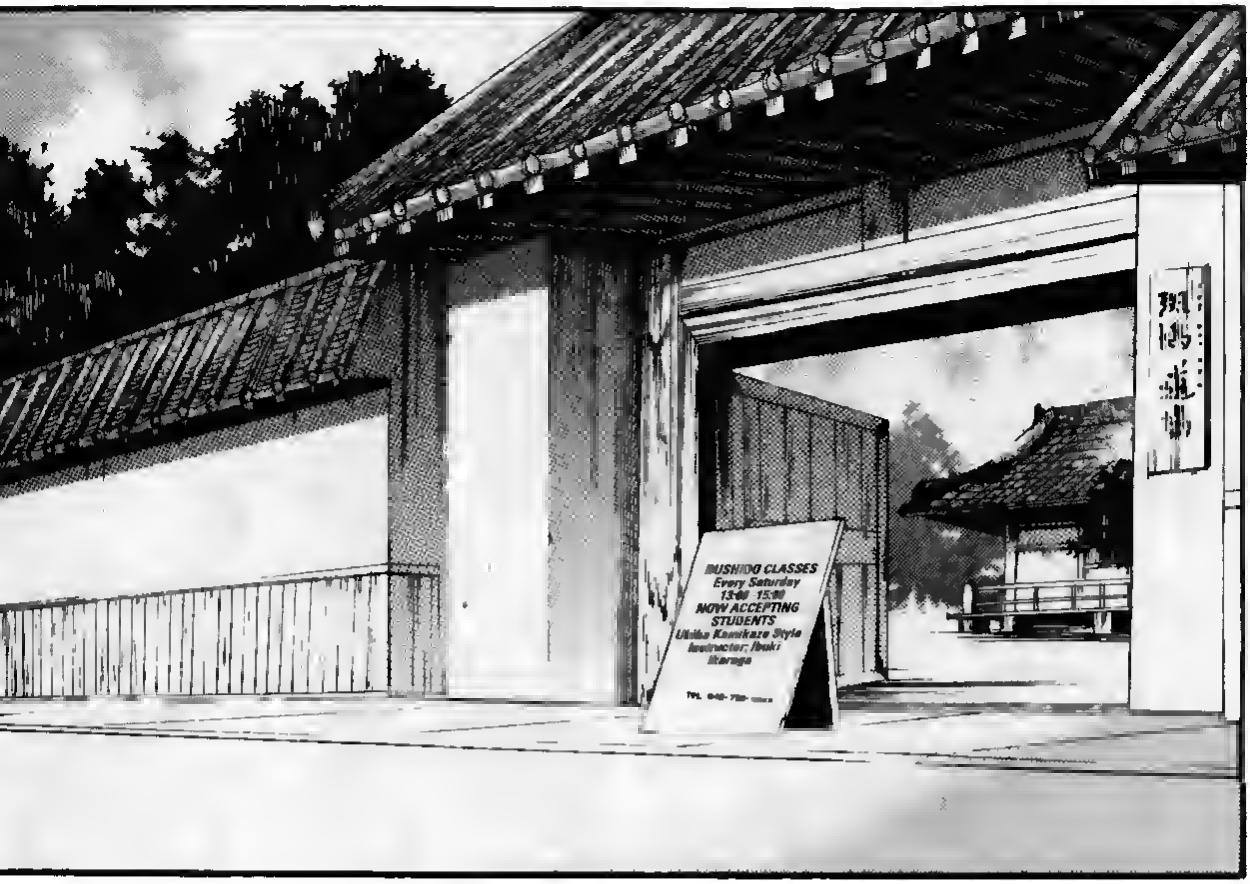
!

I-IBUKI-DONO! I AM PERFECTLY-- OWI--PERFECTLY CAPABLE OF DRESSING MY OWN WOUNDS... OWCH!
BUT IF YOU INSIST UPON CONTINUING, WOULD YOU PLEASE BE MORE GENTLE?
HOW'S THIS FOR "GENTLE"?!
PUNCH

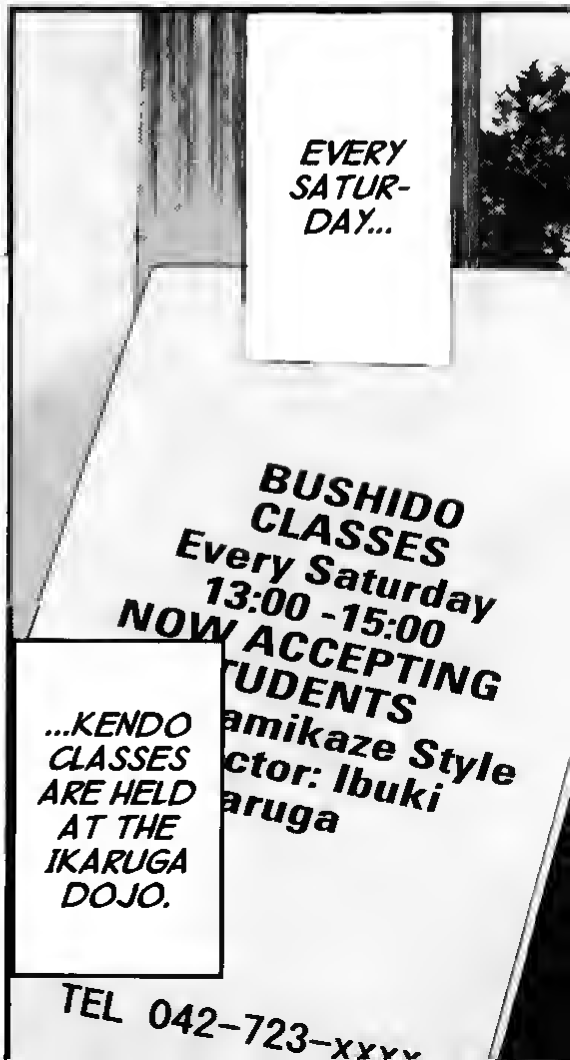
mumble
SIGH ...
WHY DO YOU ALWAYS HAVE TO BE SO PATHETIC?
AND YOU LOOK SO COOL WHEN YOU'RE FIGHTING, TOO.
HM? DID YOU SAY SOME-THING?
ACK!
N-NO! NOTHING!
WHY DON'T YOU GO TRAIN?
?!
OUCH
BANDAID
.....

GOD...
WHAT WAS I THINKING, COMING OUT HERE?
SO STUPID OF ME.
.....
HANG IN THERE, IKARUGA-SAN!
I'LL PUNCH HIS LIGHTS OUT!
?

THIRD BLADE: EAGER CHIHAYA


BUSHIDO CLASSES
Every Saturday
13:00 15:00
NOW ACCEPTING
STUDENTS
Ukiha Kamikaze Style
Instructor: Ibuki
Ikaruga

SENSEI!
WE'RE HERE, IBUKI-SENSEI!
THERE ARE ALL OF FOUR STUDENTS CURRENTLY ENROLLED.


EVERY SATUR-DAY...
...KENDO CLASSES ARE HELD AT THE IKARUGA DOJO.
BUSHIDO CLASSES
Every Saturday
13:00 -15:00
NOW ACCEPTING
TUDENTS
amikaze Style
ctor: Ibuki
aruga
TEL 042-723-XXXX

HOW NICE TO SEE YOU ALL!
LET'S ALL WORK TOGETHER AND DO OUR BEST TODAY, OKAY?
そわ
そわ
TO TEACH THE SWORD... HMM.
I HAVE ONLY BEEN A PUPIL. THE ROLE OF TEACHER IS UNKNOWN TO ME.
I SHALL LEARN SOMETHING FROM THIS.
……
AND I MUST SAY...
IBUKI-DONO'S MANNERS WITH THE CHILDREN ARE SOOTHING.
ぽわ
ぽわ

TODAY, YOICHI-SAN WILL BE HELPING US OUT!
YOICHI-SAN, WOULD YOU COME HELP TEACH?
HUH?
HUH? DOES THAT MEAN HE'S REALLY GOOD?
YEP!
HE'S EVEN STRONGER THAN I AM!
COOL! SHOW US! SHOW US!
WE WANNA SEE YOU FIGHT!
I-IBUKI-DONO... IS THIS WISE? I HAVE NEVER DRAWN MY BLADE SIMPLY FOR DISPLAY...
OH, IT WILL BE FINE!
WE'LL ONLY CROSS SWORDS A LITTLE TO GIVE EVERYONE A GOOD EXAMPLE OF PROPER TECHNIQUE.
BESIDES ...

...I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR AN EXCUSE TO SPAR WITH YOU!
TEE HEE! ♡
BAPUN
IBUKI-DONO...

……

Ah!
!

I MUST ADMIT, I HAVE BEEN QUITE CURIOUS ABOUT IBUKI-DONO'S ABILITIES.
I'M NOT DISAPPOINTED!
SENSEI'S AWESOME STRONG! SO'S THAT GUY, TOO!
SUPER COOL!
SHE HAS OBVIOUSLY EARNED HER RANK AS INSTRUCTOR!
SHE IS STRONG. VERY STRONG!
I MEET HER WITH MY FULL STRENGTH!
IT IS ONLY FAIR...
HAH!!

?!
KA-POW
TOTAL LOSER YOU ARE!!!
OOPS...
YOICHI-SAN.
I AM CONSTANTLY AMAZED AT HOW MUCH OF A...

THANK YOU.
THANK YOU, SENSEI.
DID YOU SAY SOME-THING?
IBUKI-DONO, MIGHT THE DOJO'S DEFICIT OF STUDENTS BE LINKED TO YOUR USE OF EXCESSIVE VIOLENCE...?
YOU'RE WELCOME, EVERYONE! BE CAREFUL ON YOUR WAY HOME, NOW! ♡
.....
...THAT ALL THREE OF YOUR SISTERS HAVE CEASED THEIR KENDO LESSONS?
ISN'T IT ALSO TRUE...
WHAT ARE THEIR REASONS FOR THAT?

KAGOME DOESN'T HAVE AN ATHLETIC BONE IN HER BODY.
SO TRAINING WAS NEVER VERY FUN FOR HER.
These clothes are so baggy they make me trip and fall down!
.....
WELL, CHIHAYA HAS ALWAYS TAKEN AFTER OUR ARTIST MOTHER MORE.
Pen's mightier and all that...
I SEE!
SO SHE WAS NEVER REALLY INTERESTED IN LEARNING THE SWORD IN THE FIRST PLACE.
AND AYAME...
HM. Y'KNOW...
...I DON'T REALLY KNOW WHY SHE QUIT.

NNN-
I BET THEY'RE TOGETHER RIGHT NOW...
MY SISTER AND THAT SAMURAI, ALONE IN THE DOJO...
HOLD UP! WHY AM I THINKING ABOUT THAT?!
WHO CARES WHAT THAT DUMB PERV IS DOING?!
STUPID...

ESPECIALLY IF IT MEANT GOING UP AGAINST IBUKI.
I TOLD MYSELF A LONG TIME AGO I WOULDN'T EVER GET INTO ANOTHER CONTEST I DIDN'T KNOW I WOULD WIN.
HRMMM...
TRYING TO THINK YOUR WAY OUT OF SOMETHING...
...AYAME?
Ack!!
CH-CHIHAYA!!
Why are you here?!
D-DON'T YOU HAVE SOME PAGES TO WORK ON OR SOMETHING?!
THEY'RE DONE.
I WAS JUST ABOUT TO HAVE A NICE SOAK AND THEN GET SOME SLEEP, BUT, WELL...
WHA?!
NOW I'M WORRIED ABOUT MY SIS COMING DOWN WITH A BAD CASE OF LOVESICKNESS.
ARE YOU STUPID?! HELL NO!

I-I MEAN, SERIOUSLY! THAT SKEEVY LOSER MEANS NOTHING TO ME.
Uh? Oh, ah, yeah.
A fair morning to you Ayame-dono.
YOU'VE BEEN ACTING A LITTLE OFF LATELY. THIS MORNING, YOU WERE EVEN SUSPICIOUSLY CLOSE TO BEING NICE TO HIM.
YOU SUUURE?
WAS NOT! SHUT UP!
IF YOU SAY SO. OH HEY, I JUST THOUGHT OF SOMETHING I HAVE TO DO BEFORE MY BATH.
HUH?
I DON'T THINK YOU'VE GOT A CRUSH ON YOITSAN JUST YET, BUT I CAN TELL YOU'RE THINKING ABOUT IT.
AND, WELL, YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN SHY AROUND GUYS, SO I'LL GO DO A LITTLE RESEARCH ON HIM FOR YOU!
WAIT!! DON'T DO ANY-THING--
HUH?
AWWW...

THERE'S NO NEED TO THANK ME, AYAME.
HEH HEH.
IT'S TO HELP ME WITH MY MANGA!
THIS RESEARCH IS FOR ME, TOO, AFTER ALL.

HERE GOES NOTHING.
THIS IS IKARUGA-SAN'S PLACE.
Of the Kamikaze Martial Arts
IKARUGA DOJO
.....
I'M JUST RETURNING HER HANKIE, THAT'S ALL. PERFECTLY NORMAL.
THERE'S NOTHING WEIRD ABOUT STOPPING BY.
I LOVE YOU! ♡
YOU CAME ALL THIS WAY TO RETURN MY HANKIE?
BUT MY BEING HERE IS A CHANCE FOR US TO GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER BETTER...
I LOVE YOU, TOO.
DRAMATIZATION
THEN I'LL BEAT THAT STUPID SAMURAI TO A PULP, AND WE'LL LIVE HAPPILY EVER AFTER!
I LOVE YOU, TOO.
I LOVE YOU! ♡
PERFECT! MY PLAN IS FOOLPROOF!

DAR CHE
I was going to set foot on Ikaruga-san's property in THESE?!
OH SHIT! MY SHOES ARE RATTY AS HELL!!
LET'S DO THIS!!
I MIGHT EVEN MEET HER FAMILY?! THEY CAN'T SEE ME IN THIS!
IT'S CASUAL TO A FAULT!
AND THIS OUTFIT... WHAT WAS I THINKING?!
I NEED TO GO HOME, CHANGE AND COME BACK!
I WON'T KEEP YOU WAITING, IKARUGA-SAN!!
TCH!
DAM-MIT, NO CHOICE!

AH!
CURSES! MY WILLPOWER IS WEAKENING YET AGAIN!
IT CASTS A SHADOW OVER THAT RADIANT SMILE.
OWCH! THAT SMARTS!
IBUKI-DONO, WHY MUST YOU BE SO VIOLENT?
YO!
CHIHAYA-DONO!
!
YOITSA N!
GOT A MINUTE?
?

SHEESH-
!
WELL, THERE'S NO WAY I CAN EVER WEAR THAT TOP AGAIN.
WHAT'RE THOSE TWO DOING?
I'M JUST WORRIED THAT YOICHI-SAN MIGHT DO SOMETHING INAPPRO-PRIATE AGAIN!
N-NOT THAT I CARE!
THEY'RE HOLDING HANDS...
CHIHAYA
WORKING!

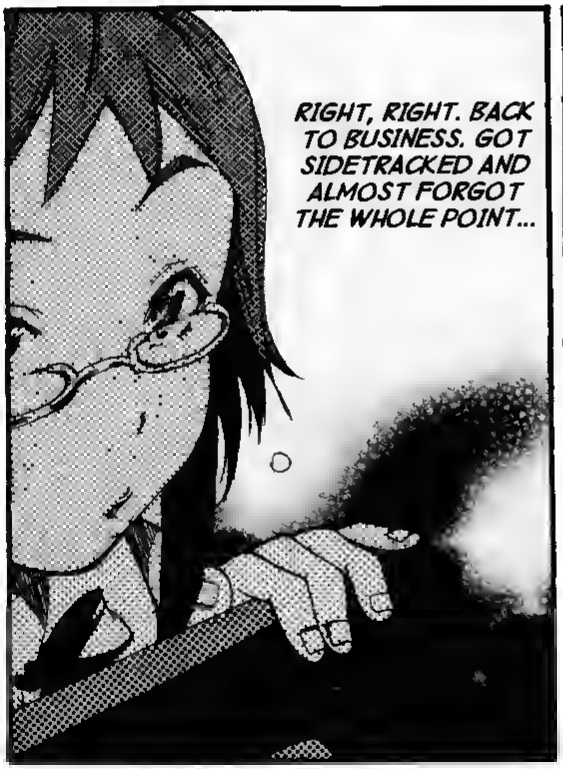
OOOH!
DID YOU PEN THIS, CHIHAYA-DONO?
YEP.
OH!
HUH?!

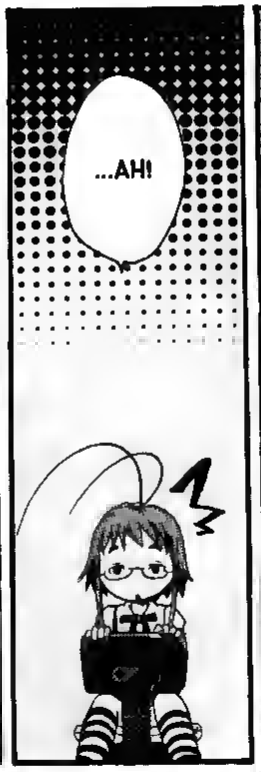
SHE HAS SPUN A TERRIBLY ENGROSSING TALE. AND IT IS SO EASILY UNDERSTOOD! I HAVE NEVER IN MY LIFE READ A MANGA, YET I HAVE NO TROUBLE WITH THIS AT ALL.
AMAZING.
SOMETHING WRONG, YOITSAN?
N-NO...
INCREDIBLE!
HOW REMARKABLE THAT SHE IS CAPABLE OF CREATING SO MARVELOUS AND DETAILED A WORLD...
...AT A MERE 15 YEARS OF AGE!

YOITSAN?
.....
YOU DON'T LIKE IT, DO YOU?
NO, NO!
QUITE THE OPPOSITE, ACTUALLY. I HAVE NO WORDS TO EXPRESS MY AMAZEMENT!
YOUR TALE IS SUPERB! I CANNOT WAIT TO READ THE NEXT PIECE.
えっ
HUH?
REALLY?!

YOU MIND SPOILERS? BECAUSE WHAT'S COMING NEXT IS GREAT! Y'SEE, THERE'S GOING TO BE A FIGHT WITH THE HEROINE, WHO'S HAD ALL HER MEMORIES WIPED, AND THE HERO'S GOING TO GO AT IT, BUT THE OTHER GIRL HOLDS HIM BACK AND--
OH...
BADUM
.....
I'VE ONLY GOT MY SISTERS TO TALK TO HERE. I DON'T OFTEN GET COMMENTS FROM A GUY'S P-O-V.
SORRY 'BOUT THAT. I, UM, KINDA GOT CARRIED AWAY.
UT THIS CHIHAYA-DONO... IS SO MATED AND LIVELY!
POSITIVE FEEDBACK LIKE THAT MAKES ME FEEL A LOT BETTER.
CHIHAYA-DONO ALWAYS STRUCK ME AS HARD TO READ.
THANKS.

HER PASSION FOR THAT ART IS THE SAME AS MY PASSION FOR THE SWORD.
SHE TRULY LOVES STORYTELLING.


RIGHT, RIGHT. BACK TO BUSINESS. GOT SIDETRACKED AND ALMOST FORGOT THE WHOLE POINT...


...AH!

?
HER ENTHU-SIASM IGNITES MY OWN TO TRAIN!

LET'S SEE WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I START PRODDING!
YOITSAN?

ARE YOU DATING ANYONE?
WH-WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
WELL? ARE YOU?
NO. BEFORE HERE I LIVED ALONE WITH MY FATHER.
DO YOU HAVE A CRUSH ON ANYONE, THEN?
HUH?
I'M JUST CURIOUS. LIKE, SAY, IF YOU HAD TO PICK BETWEEN ME AND MY SISTERS...
WH...
WH-WHY ARE YOU--
TEE HEE! YOU'RE BLUSHING BRIGHT RED, YOITSAN.
!!!
YOU CAN BE SO CUTE SOMETIMES.
CH-CHIHAYA-DONO... PLEASE, DO NOT STAND SO CLOSE. Y-YOUR CHEST...
I'M DOING THAT ON PURPOSE, ACTUALLY.

YOITSAN...
I WANT TO BE CLOSE ENOUGH FOR YOU TO HEAR THE THROBBING OF MY HEART.
WILL YOU MAKE ME YOUR GIRLFRIEND?
WHAT...?!
PLEASE?
YOITSAN...

IT'S ALL RIGHT. WE'RE ALONE IN HERE.
YOU CAN DO ANYTHING YOU WANT.

ALONE IN A ROOM WITH A GIRL...
ドクン!
ドッカーン
GODS...!
THIS...
THIS...!
~~~~~~~~~~!!!
~~~~~~~~~~

MY APOLOGIES, CHIHAYA-DONO.
YOUR FEELINGS FLATTER ME.
HOWEVER, I LEFT MY MOUNTAIN HOME TO TRAIN, NOT TO COURT LADIES. AND FURTHERMORE...

...YOU SHOULD NOT ALLOW A MAN TO TOUCH YOU SO EASILY!
LISTENING TO YOU SPEAK OF YOUR TALE WAS ENTHRALLING!
YOUR PASSION FOR YOUR CRAFT WARMED ME!
SO, ERM...
...YOU, AH...
URK...
YOUR CHARMS ARE PLENTIFUL! YOU NEEDN'T THROW YOURSELF AT A MAN TO GAIN HIS ATTENTION!
I'VE HURT HER.
AND WHAT GIRL WOULDN'T FEEL THAT WAY, AFTER WHAT SHE--

BWA HA HA HA HA HA HA!!!
HA...
AHA HA HA HA HA HA!!
.....?
HA HA HA...! RELAX, YOITSAN! I WAS JUST PLAYING WITH YOU.
I WANTED TO GET A FEEL FOR WHAT KIND OF PERSON YOU WERE, SO I TRIED PUSHING A FEW BUTTONS.

I LIKE WHAT I SEE!
A BIT ON THE SERIOUS SIDE, BUT YOU'RE A GOOD GUY.
CHIHAYA-DONO! SUCH JESTS ARE NOT SOMETHING I--
……

CHIHAYA!
ARE YOU OKAY?! HE HASN'T DONE ANYTHING TO YOU, HAS HE?!

.....

OOPS.

NOT ONLY DO YOU GO AFTER MY LITTLE SISTER, WHO'S STILL ONLY IN JUNIOR HIGH...
...BUT THEN YOU TRY TO FAKE SOME LAME EXCUSE TO MAKE IT HER FAULT?
IBUKI-DONO, WAIT! THIS IS NOT WHAT IT SEEMS!
CHIHAYA-DONO, SHE, WELL...
HEY!!!
HE GRABBED ME AND RIPPED OPEN MY SHIRT!
YOU JERK!!!
RIGHT, RIGHT. BUT Y'KNOW, I GOTTA WONDER...
HOW CRUEL...
ESPECIALLY ONE WHO'S A KNOWN PREDATOR!
NEVER LET A GUY INTO YOUR ROOM LIKE THAT!

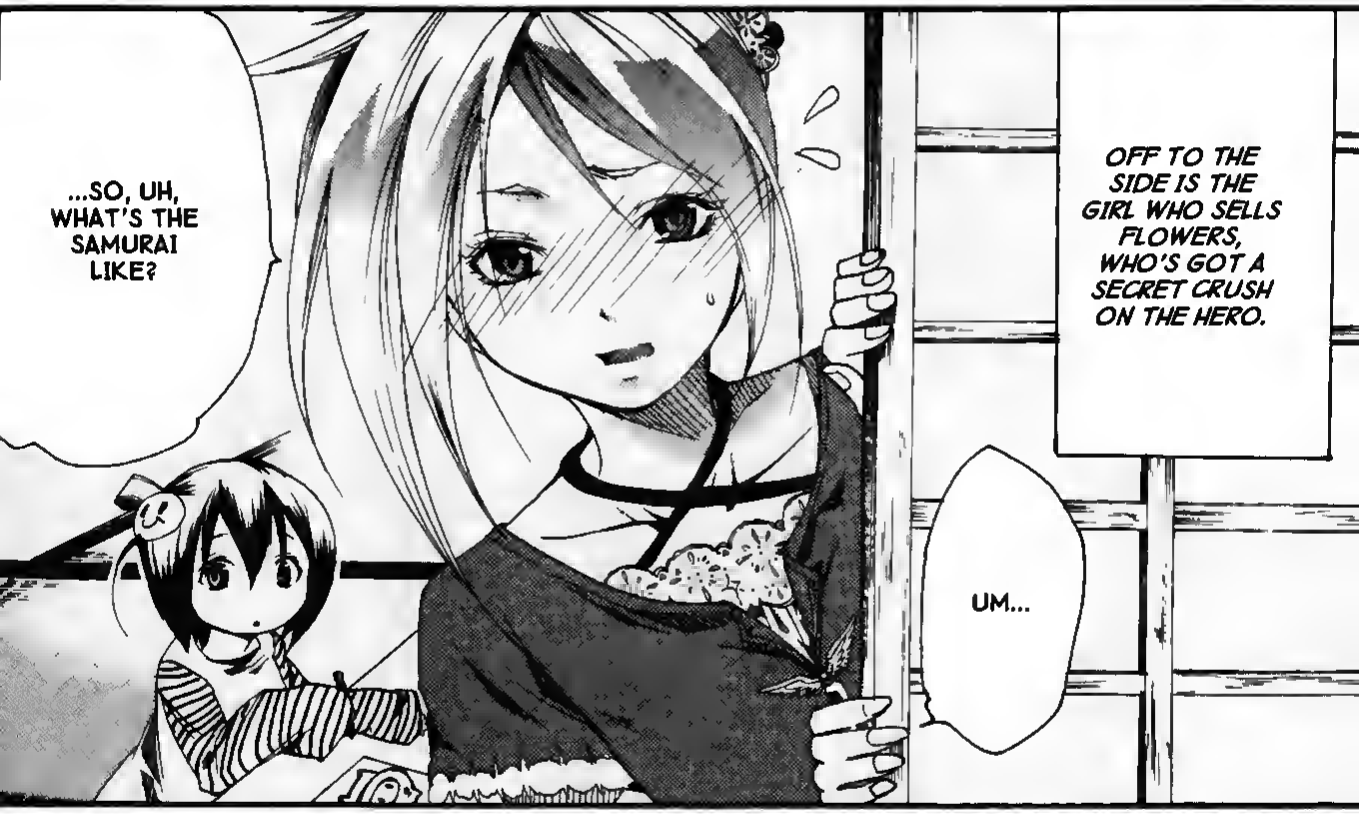
SORRY IF I STUCK MY NOSE IN WHERE IT DIDN'T BELONG.
C'MON, CHIHAYA! WHAT ON EARTH GAVE YOU THAT IDEA?
SINCE WHEN HAVE YOU TWO BEEN SO CLOSE?
WHAT?!
YOU SURE YOU'RE NOT JEALOUS? KINDA SOUNDS LIKE IT...
YOU'RE LYING! I KNOW YOU ARE!
YOU HAVE AN ENTIRELY MISTAKEN IMPRESSION OF EVENTS!
I MUST PROTEST!
I'D NEVER GET TOGETHER WITH THAT LOWLIFE JERK! NEVER IN A MILLION YEARS!
HEE HEE.
HUFF HUFF
.....
GRR!
CH-CHIHAYA-DONO! WHERE ARE YOU PUTTING THAT HAND?!
JERK!!
!!!
SO THEN YOU WON'T MIND IF I TAKE HIM?
SPLURT

HUH?
CHIHAYA!
YOU TWO REALLY DO GET ALONG GREAT TOGETHER. ♡
...TO WATCH HOW THINGS UNFOLD!
I CAN'T WAIT...
I HAVE DONE NOTHING!!
WHAT?!
SLAM

BUT...
!!!
THIS SUCKS!
I CAN'T IMAGINE A WORSE PUNISH-MENT THAN BEING THOUGHT OF AS YOUR GIRLFRIEND!
...IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE I'VE SEEN CHIHAYA SO HAPPY AND ENERGETIC.
SO YOU'RE OFF THE HOOK. FOR NOW.
AH...

YOU KNOW THAT CHIHAYA IS WORKING ON TOP OF GOING TO SCHOOL, RIGHT?
SHE HAS TO PULL ALL-NIGHTERS A LOT. SHE OFTEN TAKES SICK DAYS, SHE'S SO BUSY.
SURE, SHE'S DOING WHAT SHE LOVES...
...BUT IT MEANS THAT SHE CAN'T HANG OUT WITH HER FRIENDS OR RELAX. EVEN IF YOU LOVE YOUR WORK, IT CAN STILL BE PRETTY HARD.
SHE GETS STRESSED DURING DEADLINES.
BUT I THINK SHE MANAGED TO WORK OFF SOME OF THAT STRESS TODAY, IN HER OWN WAY.
SO THANKS FOR THAT.
IBUKI-DONO...!
HM? WHAT'S THIS?
IT LOOKS LIKE STORY IDEAS.

CHIHAYA!
THE HERO IS A SERIOUS BOY WHO BECOMES A KNIGHT.
THE HEROINE HOLDS THE SAME IDEALS AS THE HERO, BUT THE TWO OF THEM CAN'T SEEM TO STOP CLASHING.
DATE
HERO -> SERIOUS YOUNG MAN WHO WANTS TO BE A KNIGHT, TRYING TO EARN ENTRY INTO FAMOUS COMPANY OF KNIGHTS
HEROINE 1 -> DAUGHTER OF KNIGHT CAPTAIN. FALLS IN LOVE WITH HERO, BUT DOESN'T SHOW IT
HEROINE 2 -> FLOWER-SELLING CHILDHOOD FRIEND OF


...SO, UH, WHAT'S THE SAMURAI LIKE?
OFF TO THE SIDE IS THE GIRL WHO SELLS FLOWERS, WHO'S GOT A SECRET CRUSH ON THE HERO.
UM...

AYAME...
IT'S JUST, WELL, YOU WENT TO THE EFFORT AND ALL, SO THE LEAST I CAN DO IS LISTEN, UH...
I AM SO NOT INTER-ESTED IN THAT LOSER!!
DO NOT!!
SO YOU DO WANT TO KNOW.
A crush after all.

YOU SHOULD TRY GETTING TO KNOW HIM BETTER.
YOITSAN'S A GOOD GUY.
AYAME? SIS?
HAH...
.....
IT'S NOT ONE OF YOUR BETTER POINTS.
DON'T TRY TO HOLD BACK SO MUCH.

Stupid Chihaya!!
RRGHI PISSES ME OFF!!

!
HMM...
AND HERE I THOUGHT MY PHYSICAL CHARMS WOULD BE ENOUGH.
GUESS I'VE STILL GOT A WAYS TO GO BEFORE I CAN KNOCK 'EM DEAD.
HELLO? OH. AFTER-NOON, SIR.
THE SYNOPSIS FOR MY NEXT TITLE? SHOULD HAVE IT BY TOMORROW...
THE FLOWER-GIRL...
THE CAPTAIN'S DAUGH-TER...
THE SERIOUS KNIGHT...
OH, NO WORRIES, SIR. LEAVE IT TO ME.
HM?

I'VE GOT PERFECT MODELS FOR THEM ALL!

HELL NO.
HOW DO I LOOK? GOOD?
Ah!
TORIGAYA! PERFECT!
WA-SAN? WHAT'S UP, MAN?
SERIOUSLY?

HUH?

FOURTH BLADE: CALLING ALL TSUNDERES

GUIDANCE COUNSELOR
YOUR TEST SCORES HAVE TAKEN A NOSEDIVE RECENTLY.
I'M SURPRISED. YOU ENTERED THIS SCHOOL IN THE TOP TEN PERCENTILE. WHAT HAPPENED?
WELL, IKARUGA-SAN?

YOUR ELDER SISTER IS SO POLITE, AND HER GRADES ARE EXCELLENT.
IT'S STUNNING HOW DIFFERENT YOU ARE FROM HER.
I MEAN, WHAT'S IT MATTER, ANYWAY?
NOTHING.
...AND YOU WEREN'T NEARLY SO RUDE THEN, EITHER.
...IF ONLY YOU WOULD PICK UP A THING OR TWO FROM YOUR SISTER'S BEHAVIOR--
YOICHI-SAN!!
IKARUGA-SAN...

I HAVEN'T THE VAGUEST IDEA HOW YOUR CLOTHING CAME TO BE IN MY BAG!
IBUKI-DONO, PLEASE! CALM YOURSELF!
WHAT ARE MY GYM SHORTS DOING IN YOUR BAG?!
LIAR!! COME BACK HERE!!
.....
...AH, FROM YOUR ELDER SISTER'S NORMAL BEHAVIOR...
WHY WILL YOU NOT LISTEN TO ME?!
I AM INNOCENT, I SWEAR!
NO WONDER I COULDN'T FIND THEM!
YOU'RE SUCH A LOWLIFE!
I WONDER HOW THAT WENT OVER.
Heh heh...
CULPRIT

DAMN...
WHERE COULD IKARUGA-SAN BE?
HMPH...
THAT'S THE LAST THING I WANT!
GAWD!
I'VE STILL GOTTA RETURN HER HANKIE!
HOW LONG WERE YOU PLANNING TO KEEP THAT BEFORE YOU RETURNED IT? LOSER!
IT'S IKARUGA-SAN!
...AND THAT STUPID SAMURAI.
BUT GIVING IT BACK TO HER IN FRONT OF EVERYBODY'S WAY TOO EMBARRASSING.
!
UH...
IKARUGA-SAN? HERE'S YOUR--
CAN'T BE HELPED, THIS IS PROBABLY THE BEST CHANCE I'LL GET!

...ARASHI! "STORM"!!
HANKIE...
UKIHA KAMIKAZE STYLE, FOURTH STRIKE...
YOU'RE NOT GETTING AWAY FROM ME, YOICHI-SAN!!
RRGH! MISSED!
HEY, YOU EVEN HAVE A HANKIE FOR ME? AWESOME!
Thanks!
WHEW, SORRY TO KEEP YA WAITING, WA-SAN.
どぅーん
MEN
I...IKARUGA-SAN...

LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE FINALLY OUT OF BREATH!
HUFF
HUFF
STAND STILL AND LET ME PUNISH YOU!
IBU...
IBUKI-DONO...
OH MY GOD... HE'S BURNING UP!
WH-WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?!
BLUSH

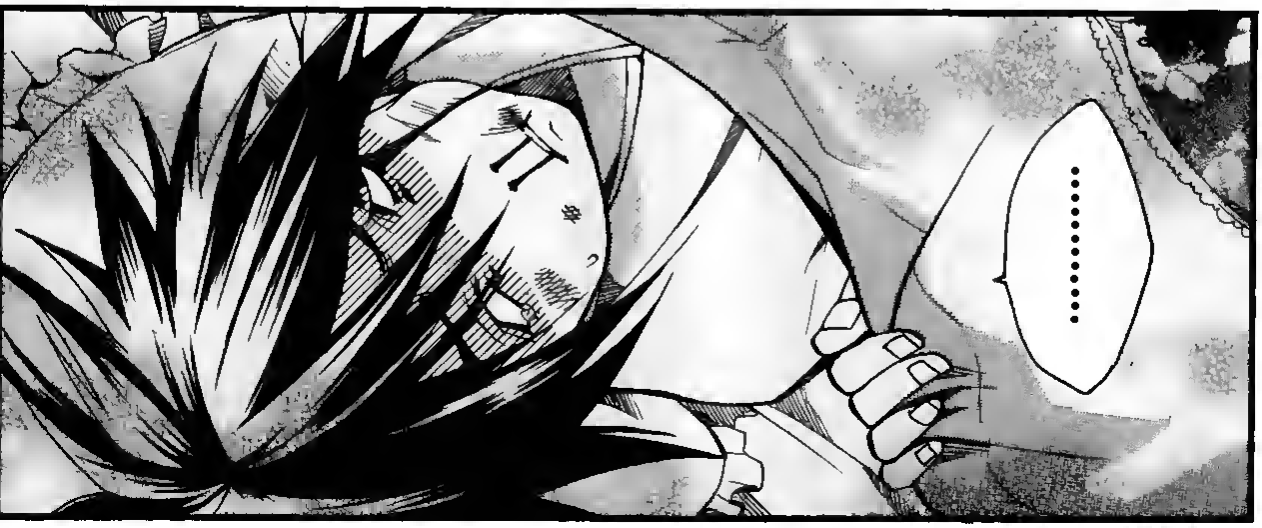
はぁ
はぁ
YOICHI-SAN!
HE'S SICK?
BETTER HEAD BACK TO YOUR MOUNTAIN, PERV-O.
YEP, LOOKS LIKE IT'S BAD FOR YOU.
UGH... PERHAPS THE CITY AIR DOES NOT SIT WELL WITH ME...
Gah!
LOOKS THAT WAY.
A BIGGIE-SIZE FEVER!

GAWD, TALK ABOUT STUPID.
AYAME!
DON'T TALK LIKE THAT!
IF I AM SO WEAK AS TO BE STRUCK DOWN BY AIR, I AM NOT FIT TO LIVE!
NO! THE KNIFE IS MERCY TO A BUSHI!
WAIT! YOICHI-SAN, CALM DOWN! PUT THAT DOWN!!
AAAAUGH!! LET ME GO!!!
SO...
...THE SAMURAI'S SICK, HUH?

WHAT'CHA DOING, AYAME?
!!
LET'S SEE...
...WHERE DO I START?
!
N-NOTHING!! GO FIND SOMETHING TO DO, CHIHAYA!!
WHOA, COOKING? NOW THIS IS RARE.
FOR YOITSAN, PERHAPS...?
THERE AIN'T NO COOKING GOING ON HERE!
I SAID GET OUT!
OKAY, OKAY. I'M LEAVING.
Lame.
GOOD LUCK WITH YOUR NOT-COOKING.
DAMMIT!
SHE ALWAYS SEES THROUGH ME!
ANY-WHO...

I JUST HOPE...

...THE SAMURAI WILL LIKE IT.



SHE MUST DESPISE ME...!
CURSES...I AGAIN I HAVE ANGERED IBUKI-DONO!
I HAD PRECIOUS LITTLE CHOICE IN THE MATTER.
THERE, AREN'T THINGS BETTER NOW THAT YOU'VE CALMED DOWN?
WHAT WAS THAT?!
GRR
YIKES! SHE HEARD THAT!
.....
HOW-EVER...
...MUST SHE BE SO VIOLENT?
.....
AUGH!! I-I APOLOGIZE, IBUKI-DONO, I--

THANK GOODNESS.
YOUR FEVER HAS GONE DOWN.

……
ｶﾗﾀ…
YOUR FEVER'S GONE DOWN, BUT THAT'S JUST THE MEDICINE DOING ITS TRICK.
I'M GOING TO GO GROCERY SHOPPING.
YOU STAY HERE AND REST. NO TRAINING TODAY, UNDERSTAND?
IS SHE...
NO, STOP! SUCH THOUGHTS WILL ONLY INCUR IBUKI-DONO'S WRATH!
YOITSAN.
AND TO THINK, BEFORE NOW I HAD NO NOTION OF HOW SOFT AND WARM A LADY'S HANDS COULD BE...
CAN'T FORGET MY BAG!
...WORRIED ABOUT ME?

CAN WE PLAY? MY PAGES ARE DONE AND I'M BORED.
W-WAIT! CHIHAYA-DONO, BACK AWAY! MY ILLNESS MAY BE--
GROAN GROAN
HOW YA FEELIN'?
?!!
...CONTA-GIOUS.
HAVE FUN AT THE GROCERY STORE.
I'LL BE BACK SOON.

...DO YOU KNOW WHAT CAUSES IBUKI-DONO TO BE SO VICIOUS?
YE GODS! CHIHAYA-DONO...
.....
WELL, IT'S NOT LIKE SHE HITS PEOPLE BECAUSE SHE HATES THEM.
I THINK SHE WANTS TO BE A GOOD MOM TO US...
...SO SHE'S PROBABLY JUST BEING STRICTER THAN NECESSARY.
WHEN MOM AND DAD TOOK OFF...
...SHE GOT LEFT IN CHARGE.

SO YEAH, SHE DOES HAVE A SHORT TEMPER...
...BUT SHE'S DOING IT WITH THE GOOD OF THE WHOLE FAMILY IN MIND.
AND I LOVE HER A LOT FOR THAT.
HOW COULD I SEE NOTHING BUT THE VIOLENCE?
!!
IBUKI-DONO MUST CARE FOR HER SISTERS AND UPHOLD THE INTEGRITY OF THE UKIHA KAMIKAZE STYLE ALL BY HERSELF.
THAT'S RIGHT...

IT'S NO WONDER HE'S NOT FEELING WELL.
POOR YOICHI-SAN. HE'S NOT USED TO LIVING IN A CITY.
SOME HOSTESS I AM.
AND THAT WAS THE FINAL STRAW ON HIS ALREADY-STRESSED SYSTEM.
I COMPLETELY FORGOT THAT, AND LET MY TEMPER TAKE CONTROL!
ONCE SHE GETS HOME...
ONCE I GET HOME...
...I SHOULD APOLOGIZE
MY THANKS, CHIHAYA-DONO! YOU HAVE LED ME TO AN IMPORTANT REALIZATION!
?
!!
HEY! YOITSAN!
'LEAST, THAT'S THE IDEA I HAD FOR THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE HERO AND HIS FAMILY IN--

...BUT RICE PORRIDGE CAN'T BE THAT HARD, RIGHT?
DON'T REMEMBER THE LAST TIME I COOKED...

.....
!!
WHAT DO I HAVE TO PUT IN IT TO GET IT TO WORK?! SALT? SUGAR? FLOUR?
WHY CAN'T I GET THIS RIGHT?! IT'S JUST SOME STUPID PORRIDGE!!
GOD DAMMIT!!

NGH...
UUUH...
CAN'T I DO ANYTHING...?!
AUGH!!! KAGOME SAW!!

AUGH!! DAMMIT!!
...AYAME WAS COOKING...?
Y-YOU DIDN'T SEE ANYTHING, KAGOME, OKAY? I WASN'T DOING ANYTHING! I WASN'T TRYING TO COOK, AND THERE WAS NO WAY I WAS TRYING TO MAKE RICE PORRIDGE, OKAY?!
WELL SORRY!!
...YOU MADE THE POT BLOW UP JUST MAKIN' PORRIDGE?
?
?
...SO, UM, I CAN HELP... IF YOU WANT?
?!
...I-I LIKE COOKING...
UM...
YOU CAN MAKE, UM, A STEW WITH THAT.
THERE'S EGGS AND LEFTOVER SALMON AND STUFF IN THE FRIDGE.

.....!
Ayame! Oh no!
ORANGES
ORANGES

IT'S DONE...!!
YES!
THANK YOU SO MUCH, KAGOME!
YOU'RE AN AWESOME COOK!
BUT, UM, WHY'D YOU WANNA COOK?
Grawr!
I'M NOT TELLING!

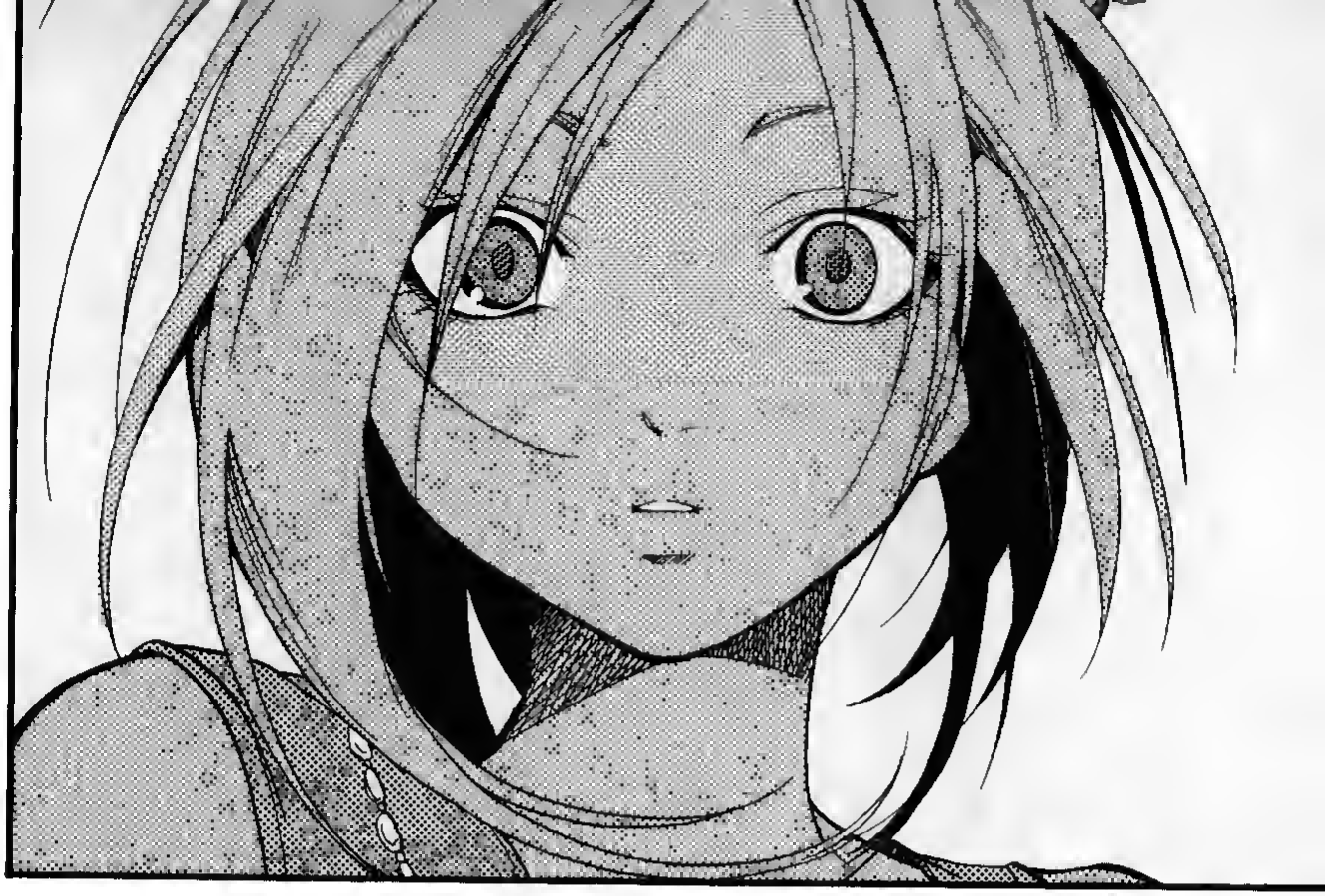
I DID IT!
SURE, I HAD A LITTLE BIT OF HELP, BUT I TRIED SOMETHING AND I DID IT!
A-ANYWAYS, YOU WERE A BIG HELP, KAGOME. THANKS!
UH...
なっ!!
DOES...
...THIS MEAN I GOTTA CLEAN UP...
...ALL BY MYSELF?
AND IF HE THINKS IT TASTES GOOD... THAT'D MAKE ME HAPPY.
I HOPE THIS MAKES THE SAMURAI HAPPY.

!
I'M HOME!
YOICHI-SAN?!
!
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?!
I FEEL THAT I MUST APOLO--
UM...
IBUKI-DONO!

PARDON...?
HOW ARE YOU SUPPOSED TO GET WELL IN THE HALLWAY?!
I TOLD YOU TO REST!!
NOW YOU SEE HERE! A VERY IMPORTANT REASON BRINGS ME FROM MY BED!
YOU SHOULD BE FOCUSED ON GETTING WELL!
GASP!
...I MEANT TO APOLOGIZE...
OOPS...

I HAVE TO
UM...
APOLOGIZE!
I...!
.....
OKAY...
I...!
GO AHEAD...
NO, NO...
LADIES FIRST.
.....
.....

Hee...
AHA HA HA...!
HA HA...
HE'S NOT IN HIS ROOM...
WHAT THE HELL?



HA HA HA... YOICHI-SAN, THAT WAS KINDA FUNNY!
THAT IT WAS, HA HA!

カタ
カタ
……!
?!
AYAME-DONO?!
AYAME-DONO, IS SOMETHING THE MATTER?
SHOVE IT! DON'T FOLLOW ME!

I SHOULD'VE KNOWN THIS WOULD HAPPEN!
GOD, I'M SUCH AN IDIOT!
WHY DID I EVEN BOTHER?!
I'LL NEVER BEAT HER!
I STUDIED HARD, TOO...
4-1 Ayame Ikaruga
084
TEE HEE! THANK YOU!
A PERFECT SCORE ON YOUR TEST, IBUKI-CHAN? OH, HOW LOVELY! YOU'RE SUCH A GOOD GIRL!
IT'S ALWAYS BEEN THAT WAY AND IT ALWAYS WILL!

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR GOLD MEDAL, IBUKI-CHAN! YOU'RE REALLY GOOD AT KENDO!
THANK YOU.
I ONLY GOT 4TH...
WHOA, YOU WON THE RACE, IBUKI-CHAN! THAT'S SO AWESOME!
OH, IT'S NO BIG DEAL.
.....
1
2
DUDE, IKARUGA, WHAT'S THE DEAL? YOUR BIG SISTER HAS MONSTER KNOCKERS!
WELL, EXCUSE ME FOR BEING FLAT!
OH MY GOSH!
IBUKI-CHAN, YOU'RE THE BEST AT EVERYTHING!
I TRIED SO HARD...
...BUT NO ONE EVER NOTICED.
NO ONE EVER NOTICES.
NO ONE EVER CARES.
SO WHAT'S THE POINT?
ENOUGH. I DON'T CARE ANY MORE.

I'M NOT EVEN GOING TO TRY ANY MORE.
I SAID, DON'T FOLLOW ME!!
AYAME-DONO!
WAH!
AFTER ALL THE TROUBLE I WENT THROUGH TO MAKE IT...!
THE STEW!
SEE? THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU TRY.
.....
ENOUGH. I DON'T CARE ANY MORE...

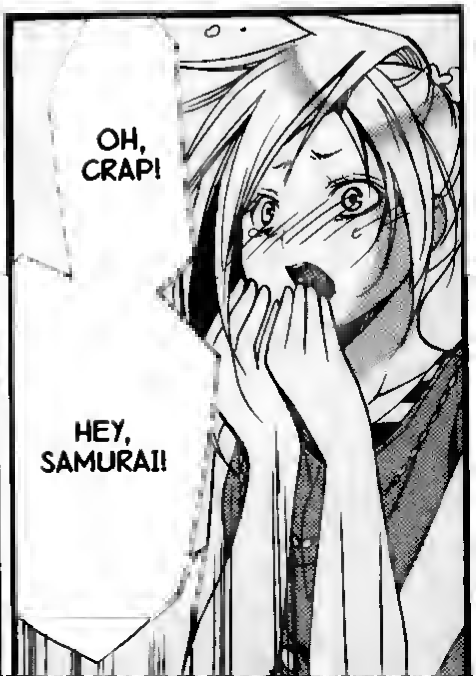
DO YOU TRULY MEAN THAT, AYAME-DONO?
YOU DON'T CARE ANY MORE?
IF SO...
...THEN WHY DO YOUR EYES HOLD TEARS?!
KI
AH...!

NEVER GIVE UP!!

OOPS.

NO WAY!
AAGH!!

HUH?
WE'RE ON THE SECOND FLOOR!

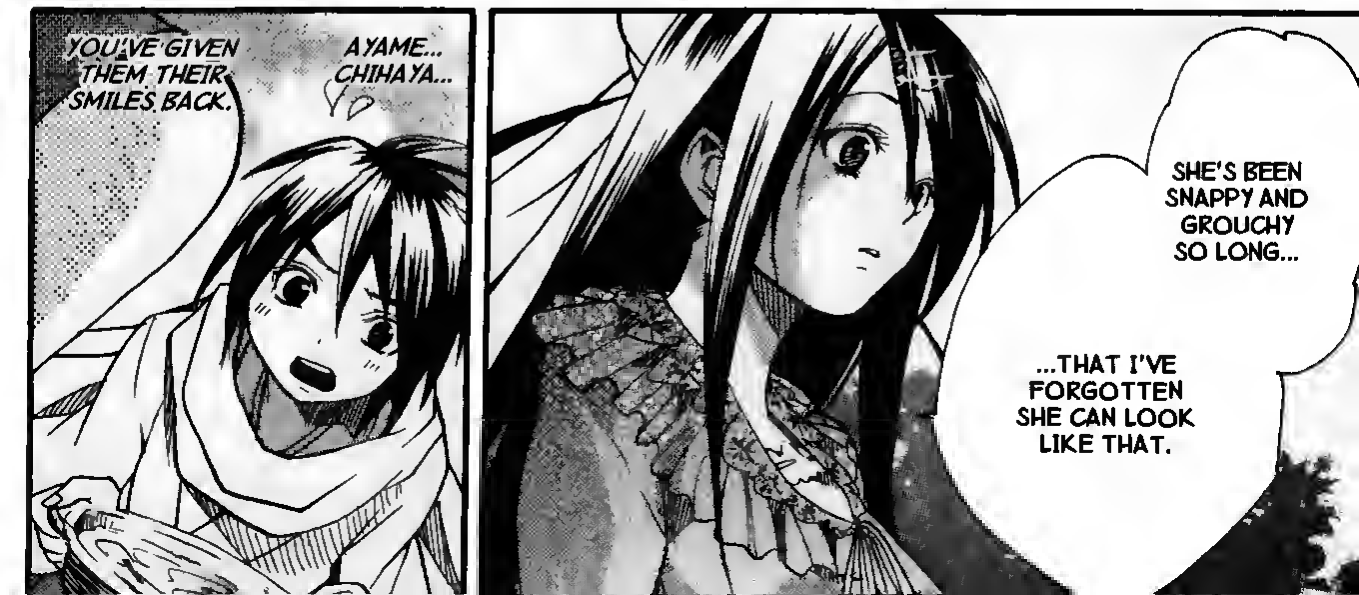

OH, CRAP!
HEY, SAMURAI!

OWCH...
HEY, SAMURAI!
THAT'S... NOT WHAT I WAS WORRIED ABOUT.
falling out of trees was part of my training.
OH, ME? HA HA! THAT PALTRY HEIGHT PRESENTS LITTLE CHALLENGE FOR ME.
AH, AYAME-DONO!
NEVER FEAR! I MANAGED TO CATCH THE STEW JUST IN THE NICK OF TIME!
BUT...
I WAS REALLY, REALLY HUNGRY SO I WAS GOING TO EAT THE WHOLE THING, TOO!
SO WHAT IF I DID?!
...IT LOOKS DELICIOUS. DID YOU MAKE IT?
BUT, I MUST SAY, THIS STEW...

...UM...
...I'M IN A GOOD MOOD SO, AH...
...I GUESS I'LL LET YOU HAVE A BITE. JUST ONE, THOUGH, GOT IT?
OOH, DON'T MIND IF I DO!
!!
No hesitation?!
Thanks kindly!
!
DELICIOUS!
THIS STEW IS EXCELLENT, AYAME-DONO!
BABUM
Q-QUIT LYING. IT IS NOT.
IT'S THE FIRST THING I EVER COOKED.
PLUS KAGOME HELPED OUT.

THIS IS YOUR FIRST ATTEMPT AT COOKING?
EVEN WITH ONE BITE I CAN TELL YOU PUT EFFORT INTO THIS!
THEN IT IS EVEN MORE SPECIAL!
OH MY GOD...

I'M SO HAPPY...!
SOMEBODY FINALLY LIKED SOMETHING I DID!
WH-WHAT? HAVE I DONE SOMETHING WRONG?
MY EYES ARE WATERING, THAT'S ALL!
YOU GAVE ME YOUR COLD, DAMMIT!
AYAME...


YOU'VE GIVEN THEM THEIR SMILES BACK.
AYAME... CHIHAYA...
SHE'S BEEN SNAPPY AND GROUCHY SO LONG...
...THAT I'VE FORGOTTEN SHE CAN LOOK LIKE THAT.

.....
YOICHI-SAN...
SHEESH!
YOU REALLY ARE...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING JUMPING AROUND LIKE A MONKEY? YOU'LL MAKE YOUR COLD WORSE!
...A STRANGE AND WONDERFUL PERSON.

TO BE CONTINUED

BONUS

SCOOP!

THE GIRLS NEXT DOOR

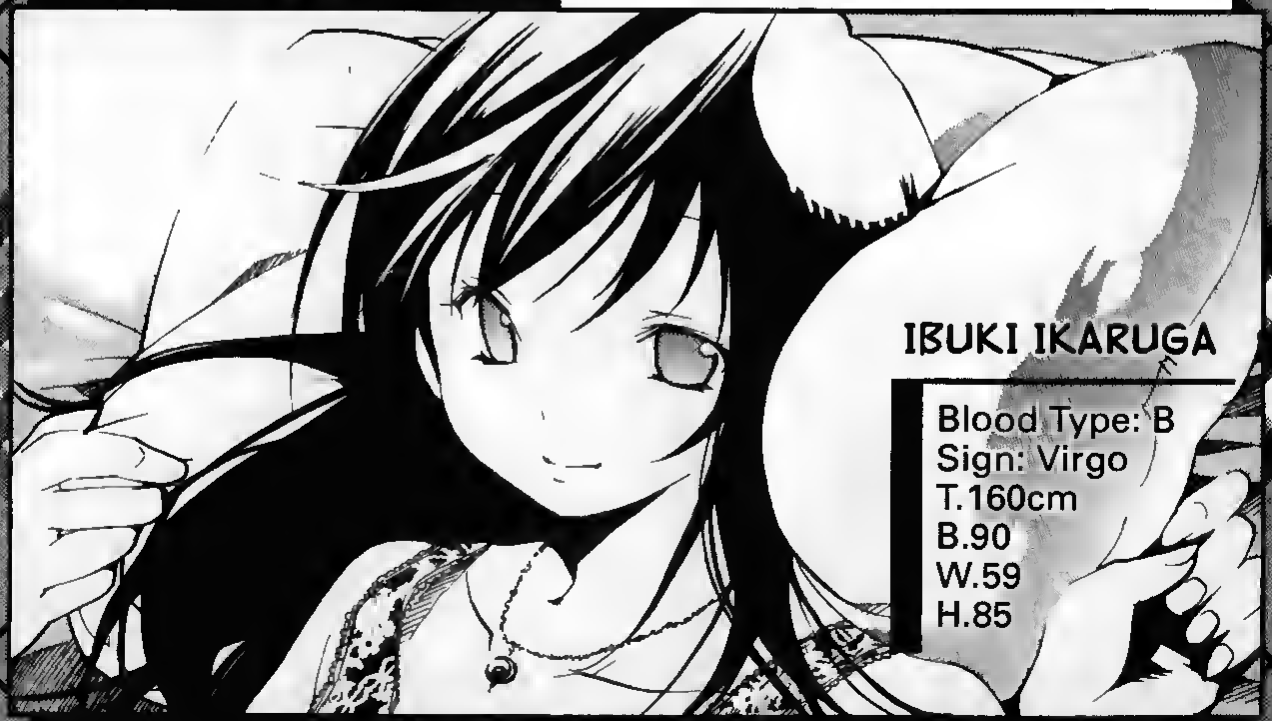
WE HERE AT IDOLPOP HAVE TAKEN ALL YOUR SUBMISSIONS OF BEAUTIFUL GIRL SIGHTINGS AND COMPILED THEM INTO ONE COMPREHENSIVE COLLECTION! TODAY'S TREATS FROM OUR MASSIVE PHOTO COLLECTION ARE THE GIRLS NEXT DOOR FROM THE KENDO DOJO!

BIG SIS IBUKI IKARUGA IS THE FINEST 11TH GRADE STUDENT TO GRACE A KENDO UNIFORM. CHIEF INSTRUCTOR SINCE HER PARENTS LEFT TO TRAIN OVERSEAS, IBUKI TEACHES KENDO LESSONS EVERY SATURDAY. WHERE CAN I SIGN UP, IBUKI-SENSEI?

IBUKI IKARUGA

TURN-ONS: RESPONSIBILITY, HOMEWORK, CHORES. HER FAVORITE ACTIVITY IS COOKING AND HER FAVORITE CULINARY CREATION IS STEW.

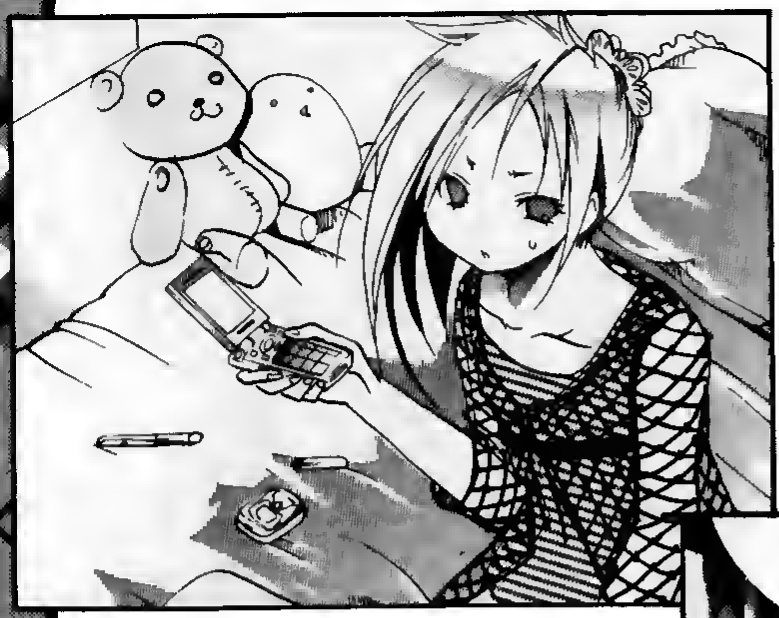
TURN-OFFS: BAD GRADES.



IBUKI IKARUGA

Blood Type: B
Sign: Virgo
T.160cm
B.90
W.59
H.85

QUOTE: "WE'RE ALWAYS LOOKING FOR MORE STUDENTS HERE AT THE IKARUGA DOJO!"

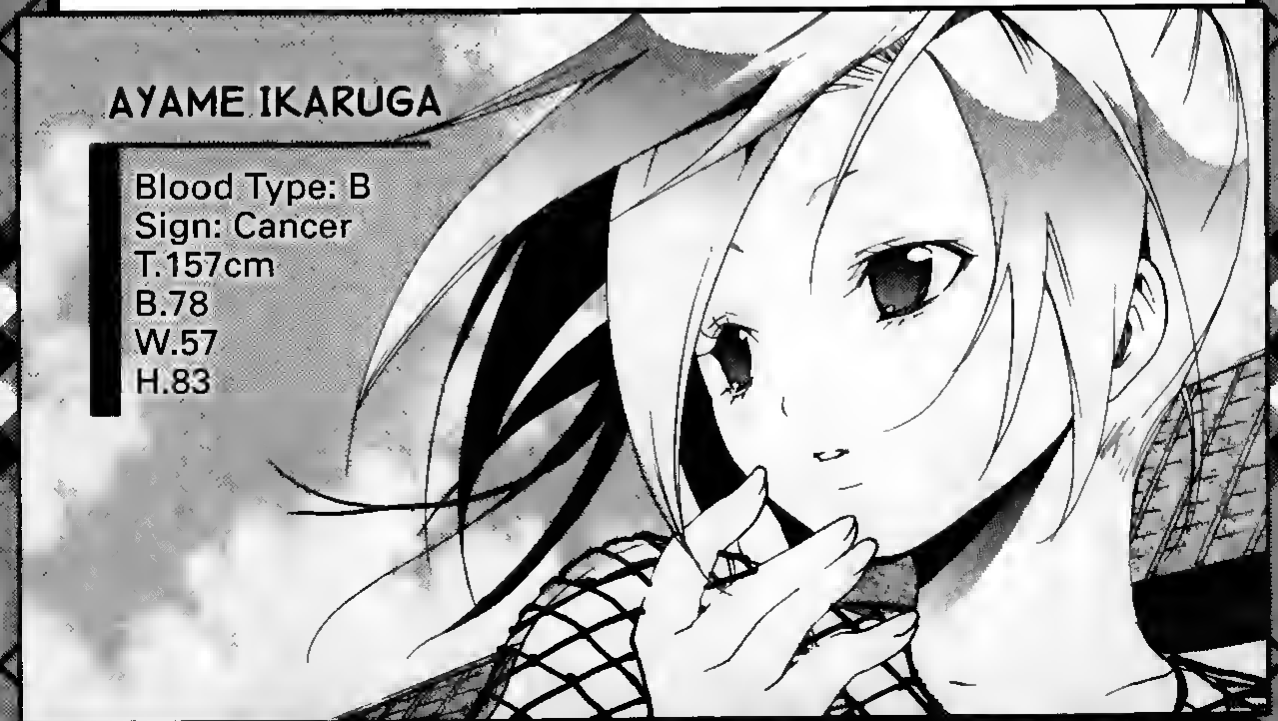


SHE'S SECOND IN AGE, BUT SECOND TO NONE IN STYLE! AYAME, A FIRST YEAR STUDENT IN HIGH SCHOOL, IS A FASHION-CONSCIOUS MODERN GIRL AND THE TOTAL OPPOSITE OF HER BIG SIS. WHEN ASKED WHAT ONE ITEM SHE WOULD WANT TO HAVE WITH HER ON A DESERT ISLAND, SHE IMMEDIATELY ANSWERED, "MY CELL PHONE."

TURN ON (?): DOES SHE GO FOR KENDO? "HELL NO! KENDO IS SO TOTALLY LAME! BUT...IF SOMEBODY REALLY WANTS ME TO, MAYBE I'D SPAR... FOR A LITTLE..." DO WE SENSE A DARK PAST HERE? YOU CAN SHARE YOUR SECRETS WITH US, AYAME.

TURN OFFS: CAMERAS. TOO SHY? SULTRY AYAME-CHAN WOULDN'T SMILE FOR US, BUT WITH HOT PINK BLUSHES LIKE THAT, WHO NEEDS A SHOW OF PEARLY WHITES?

AYAME IKARUGA

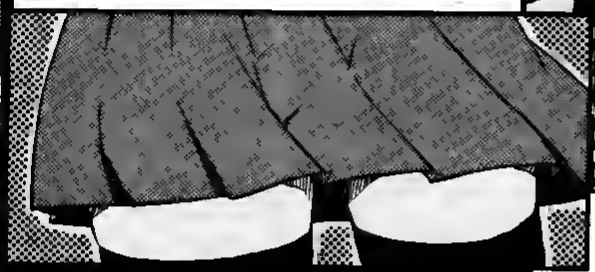


AYAME IKARUGA

Blood Type: B
Sign: Cancer
T.157cm
B.78
W.57
H.83

QUOTE: "A QUOTE? I'VE GOT A QUOTE FOR YOU! MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS!!" (BLUSHES)

NUMBER THREE IS NONE OTHER THAN CHIHAYA IKARUGA, CREATOR OF *STEP*, WHICH IS BEING PUBLISHED IN IDOLPOP'S SISTER-ANTHOLOGY SHOJOPOP! YES, THAT'S RIGHT, FOLKS. (IN)FAMOUS CREATOR CHIHAYA IKARUGA IS STILL ONLY IN HER THIRD YEAR OF JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL!



CHIHAYA IKARUGA

GOOD LUCK WHEREVER YOUR PENS AND TEXTBOOKS TAKE YOU, SENSEI! ♡

TURN ONS: ANYTHING MADE BY THE GOTH-PUNK BRAND "PANDA ROCK." TURN OFFS: SO MUCH WORK THAT SHE DOESN'T HAVE ENOUGH TIME TO STUDY.

Blood Type: B
Sign: Sagittarius
T.149cm
B.86
W.53
H.81

QUOTE: "BUY *STEP* VOLUMES 1-3!"

STEP VOLUMES 1 - 3 AVAILABLE NOW!

LAST BUT NOT LEAST, LITTLE KAGOME-CHAN! A SPUNKY LITTLE FOURTH-GRADER, KAGOME-CHAN LOVES TO HELP OUT HER BIG SISTERS!

KAGOME IKARUGA

FUTURE CAREER: DESSERT CHEF. KAGOME LOVES SWEET FOODS! MAYBE THAT'S WHY AN ICE CREAM CONE AT THE BEGINNING OF THE INTERVIEW HELPED SWEETEN HER UP!

TURN ONS: CRAFTS, SEWING HER SISTER'S OLD CLOTHES INTO ONES THAT FIT HER.

KAGOME IKARUGA

Blood Type: O
Sign: Pisces
T.138cm
B.65
W.50
H.68

FOUR SISTERS, FOUR COMPLETELY DIFFERENT PERSONALITIES! WHICH ONE IS YOUR TYPE?

END

QUOTE: "NUMMY ICE CREAM!"

IN THE NEXT VOLUME OF

YOICHI CONTINUES HIS STRUGGLES TO AVOID "ACCIDENTALLY" DOING NAUGHTY THINGS BUT IBUKI CATCHES ALL! THE IKARUGA SISTERS DO SEEM TO BE WARMING UP TO THE YOUNG SAMURAI BUT HERE COME SOME ASSASSINS AFTER HIS LIFE! CAN YOICHI DEFEAT A NEW PAIR OF BEAUTIES WHO WANT TO BEAT HIM UP EVEN WORSE THAN IBUKI DOES?!

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